

Mubarak wins backing for third term

CAIRO (AFP) — All but 15 members in the 454-seat Egyptian parliament backed President Hosni Mubarak Wednesday to run unopposed for a third six-year term in office. The 65-year-old president's National Democratic Party (NDP) dominates the People's Assembly and no other candidate was able to muster the backing of at least one-third of MPs to run for head of state. Mr. Mubarak will in early October face the electorate, who are asked to vote "Yes" or "No" to his candidacy, and his new term starts Oct. 13. He took over as president in October 1981 after the assassination of his predecessor Anwar Sadat by Islamic fundamentalists. In parliament, 439 members signed a letter supporting Mr. Mubarak as the only candidate. But the two opposition parties in parliament, the National Progressive Unionist Party (NPUP), a Marxist group with five seats, and the Nasserist Arab Democratic Party with three seats, opposed the motion. Khaled Mohieddin, head of the NPUP, told parliament that Mr. Mubarak had failed to respond to his party's calls for democratic, economic and social reforms. Outside parliament, the Muslim Brotherhood and the liberal New Wafy party have also opposed Mr. Mubarak's re-election, calling for a maximum of two terms as head of state and for direct presidential elections with a choice of candidates.

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Christopher seeks Mideast push, but has no new ideas

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said Mr. Christopher spoke to Mr. Sharas by telephone.

The agency said Mr. Christopher stressed "the U.S. administration's keenness to act as an active and honest mediator to help the parties concerned and pushing the peace process forward."

The Arab participants in the peace talks with Israel have welcomed Mr. Christopher's plans to visit the region.

Damascus Radio said Wednesday Mr. Christopher's decision to come to the region suggested he had not given up hope on the 21-month-old peace process.

"Everybody knows that the Arabs had entered the peace process...in response to American assurances and commitments," the commentary said. "Pending the arrival of Christopher, there remains one nagging question: Will the American official's briefcase contain something that supports the Arabs' aspirations?"

Good 'tactic'

In Damascus, sources in a Palestinian group opposed to the peace talks said Wednesday Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat made a wise tactical move by floating the idea of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

Palestinians say the idea of the confederation is meant to break the deadlock in negotiations with Israel on Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories.

With no progress in the peace process after 10 rounds of talks, airing the idea could be a face-saving way for several parties, one opposition source told Reuters.

Describing the move as "smart and tactical," the source said Mr. Arafat's real aim could be to prod the United States to come up with

better terms for self-rule.

"If Arafat manages to get something from the Americans close to a semi-state, he will then be in a position to try to convince the Palestinians of discussing a confederation with Jordan on the basis of quasi-party," said the source.

A spokesman for the Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said the group was not against confederation provided it was between two independent states.

In his comments in Washington on Wednesday, Mr. Christopher also called the deteriorating situation in Bosnia tragic but said there was nothing more the United States could do to end the killing there.

"The United States is doing all it can consistent with our national interest," he said, adding: "It's the world's most difficult diplomatic problem."

Mr. Christopher reaffirmed the United States would be willing to send troops to help enforce a peace settlement arrived at in good faith by the three factions in the Bosnian war (see page 8).

He also noted that a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) plan to provide air cover for U.N. forces in Bosnia is now ready for implementation.

Rejecting the motion that the outside world is indifferent to Bosnia's plight, Mr. Christopher said that "5 ground convoys delivered relief supplies to Bosnia last week and there were 15 relief flights on Tuesday alone."

State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said Tuesday the escalation in fighting around Sarajevo "presents a very difficult situation, something that the United States is deeply troubled by."

Security Council keeps Iraq sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Security Council Wednesday maintained its 3-year-old trade and oil embargoes against Iraq, saying that Baghdad still had not complied with all ceasefire and related resolutions.

"After hearing all opinions in consultations, the president concluded that there was no agreement that the necessary conditions existed for a modification of the (sanctions) regimes," said the council president, David Hannay, the British ambassador.

He spoke after closed consultations were held for the regular 60-day review of sanctions against Iraq. There had been no expectation that trade and oil embargoes would be lifted. No open meeting or vote was held.

Diplomats said that although Iraq apparently agreed to long-term weapons monitoring, it still had not complied with other council demands.

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MAJALI VISITS BOSNIANS: Prime Minister Abdal Salam Al Majali Wednesday visits Bosnian families hosted by Jordan at Umm Teena school in Amman to inspect their living conditions. Dr. Majali was briefed on the services offered to them by the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO) in cooperation with other Jordanian organisations. Dr. Majali was accompanied on the visit by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdal Salam Al Abbadi (left) who heads the JHCO (Petra photo).

Reports conflict on Israeli plans and moves in southern Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Conflicting reports emerged from tense South Lebanon Wednesday with Israeli officials saying an attack on Lebanese resistance forces was inevitable while extra Israeli units were reported to have been pulled out of Lebanon.

Lebanon's defence minister reacted sharply to statement by Israeli army chief of staff Lieutenant-General Ehud Barak saying that Israel would sooner or later strike into Lebanon to try to smash the bases of guerrillas after weeks of heavy skirmishes.

The sabre rattling added fuel to the already volatile region in advance of a Middle East swing planned by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to promote an 11th round of Arab-Israeli peace talks.

"Of course we will not stand idly by in the face of aggression. We shall fight with all means at our disposal," Mr. Barak said in a live interview broadcast by the Beirut-based Voice of Lebanon radio station.

"There is no way to avoid a showdown and in the end, sooner or later, we will be bound to attack terrorist targets beyond the security zone, even if I hope to be proven wrong," Gen. Barak was quoted as saying in the daily Haaretz.

Gen. Barak reportedly made the statements in a closed door meeting of the parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee Tuesday. He added that he hoped the Iranian-backed Hezbollah and Palestinian groups gave reason to cease attacks.

Lebanese Defence Minister Mohsen Dalloul said Wednesday the country's entire population would take up arms against an Israeli offensive.

The sources inside the zone said about 60 military vehicles, mostly armoured troop carriers and artillery pieces, crossed back into Israel from the eastern and western parts of the buffer area.

Independent security sources in the south said they had no information immediately available to confirm or deny the report.

stop only when Israel withdraws," Mr. Dalloul said.

His statement followed a Syrian warning to Israel against mounting a large-scale attack, indicating it would hurt the 21-month-old Middle East peace process.

Security sources in the southern town of Marjayoun were quoted as saying Israel had pulled out the bulk of the reinforcements it put into its "security zone" in South Lebanon since the killing of five soldiers two weeks ago.

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Israeli army jeep kills boy in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A border police hit and killed a 15-year-old Palestinian youth riding his bicycle in the occupied Gaza Strip Wednesday, hospital officials and police said.

Suleiman Mahmoud Arafat from the village of Abasan was brought to the Nassar Hospital in serious condition and died shortly later, hospital officials said.

Gaza police spokesman David Sadeh said the border police jeep hit the youth after he ran a stop sign.

On Tuesday, a 10-year-old Palestinian boy shot by Israeli soldiers in the occupied Gaza Strip died of his wounds.

Gaza residents said Issat Matar was shot in the head in Jabalia refugee camp Sunday while playing with other children in the streets.

Issat Matar was the 41st Palestinian aged 16 and under to die in clashes with troops since last December, a sharp increase over the previous year, when 17 children were killed.

Israel's deputy defence minister Wednesday sought to reject criticism over the killing of Palestinian children in the occupied territories and asserted it was up to parents to keep them away from clashes with soldiers.

"I have personally had dozens of conversations with (Palestinian) teachers, headmasters and parents and I have begged them to watch the children," said Mordechai Gur.

"Without entering into the question of who is right in the argument, I beg them to leave the children at home. The children are not built for this. It's not their purpose."

Mr. Gur was speaking in parliament during a debate in response to a campaign launched last week by the Israeli human rights group Betselem to stem a rising toll of Palestinian children killed by soldiers.

Jordanian-Palestinian confederation looms into centre-stage

Debate focuses on concept as by choice and as a key to break logjam in peace talks

By Lamis K. Andoni

ALMOST TWO years after the launching of the Middle East peace process Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are finally seriously considering a future Jordanian-Palestinian confederation as a potential integral part of a joint negotiating strategy.

Both His Majesty King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat have reached an understanding on the need to formulate a clearer and detailed vision of confederal ties and to consider placing the option on the negotiating table, according to officials from both sides.

It is clear, however, that neither side has either formulated a specific proposal nor has decided on whether it would be useful to raise the issue with the Israelis and the Americans to break the current deadlock in a way that will step up Arab demands for an Israeli commitment to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

But it is also clear, according to the understanding reached by the two leaders, that the two sides are talking about a confederation "between two independent entities" that will assert "Palestinian sovereignty over the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

Therefore, the almost immediate Israeli official stance should not be viewed as a shift from the basic Israeli position that so far rejects a recognition of Palestinian self-rule that will ensure Israeli control over the land and security during the suggested interim period.

At the same time, it is important to note that the U.S. has never publicly or privately

recognised Palestinian self-determination, even though officials in Washington are more than careful these days to make statements suggesting a principled American opposition to a Palestinian state.

It is doubtless to say that all sides reacted positively to the idea in the hope of breaking the deadlock in the peace talks and will try to use the old-new option to steer the process in different — possibly opposite — directions.

The U.S. has, interestingly enough, maintained total silence on the issue and American officials contacted in Washington refused comment.

The Palestinian delegation has already raised the subject with the U.S. coordinator on the Middle East process, Dennis Ross, during his recent visit to the region.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Mr. Ross and other mediators remained non-committal, according to Palestinian negotiators, and appeared to be more focused on efforts to break the impasse on interim Palestinian self-rule rather than shifting the negotiations to what they view as issues belonging to the final status.

That is not to say that the U.S. has no position regarding the final status or the idea of confederation. After all, association between Jordan and the Israeli-occupied territories was a key element of the American proposal launched by former President Ronald Reagan back in 1982. Since then successive American administrations have strived to define that linkage that has received different and often conflicting interpretations.

But it is mainly the U.S. and Israeli refusal to deal with the PLO, which embodies Palesti-

nian nationalism, that has been one of the major factors that heightened Palestinian sensitivity regarding the independence of the Palestinian delegation.

There could be many arguments on both sides, considering the painful past history, that contributed to the continuing "mutual uneasiness." But the fact remains that the peace process has reached a crucial point that warrants a clearer Jordanian-Palestinian strategy, especially that there cannot be any progress between Israel and Jordan without a meaningful breakthrough regarding the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Moreover, neither the U.S. nor Israel has clearly spelled out what kind of role, if any, is envisioned for Jordan during the interim period. Taking the fact into consideration that so far no clear linkage has been established between the interim self-rule and the final status, a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement or strategy could be crucial in defining the course of the peace process.

And even if the two sides decided that placing the confederal option on the negotiating table will not serve Arab interests at this stage, that does not minimise the importance of trying to use some imaginative thinking on both sides regarding the future relationship.

According to the understanding reached in Amman, both Jordan and the PLO will separately try to formulate the future relationship and then decide to use either as a basis of a negotiating strategy or to offer it as a proposal to the U.S. and Israel, judging by interviews conducted with Jordanian and Palestinian officials.

(Continued on page 10)

From Michael Jansen in Birzeit, the occupied West Bank

THE REVIVAL this week by Yasser Arafat of the idea of a confederation between Jordan and a future Palestinian entity would be positive — and acceptable to the inhabitants of the occupied territories — only if that confederation is formed on their terms and not those of Israelis who are promoting this proposal, like Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The Palestinian demand is for a confederation of two sovereign states after the emergence of an independent Palestinian state comprising virtually all of the West Bank and Gaza, with Israeli settlements either being dismantled or Israel being accorded jurisdiction in the remaining settlements which would have "extraterritorial status" in the Palestinian entity.

The Israelis see confederation as quite a different proposition. For them it is a way to circumvent Palestinian self-determination leading to the creation of a Palestinian state in any part of the occupied territories.

Through their expropriation, settlement and road building activities in the territories the Israelis have made it abundantly clear that they have no intention of withdrawing from the bulk of the territories and transferring authority to the Palestinians.

The Israeli intention is to hold on to at least half if not two-thirds of the land in both the West Bank and Gaza and to turn over concentrations of Palestinian population to Jordanian control, calling this "confederation."

This would allow Israel to avoid formal contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), thereby denying the Palestinian diaspora the right of return to the Palestinian portions of the confederation. Israel would also not have to contend with the de jure emergence of a Palestinian state which, simply by being born, would challenge Israel's "right to exist," which Israel wants accepted as a moral right as well as acceptance of the physical fact of the Jewish state. And Israel would shed responsibility for the Palestinians it now rules and transfer this responsibility to Jordan which would be obliged to grant them civil and political rights within the Kingdom.

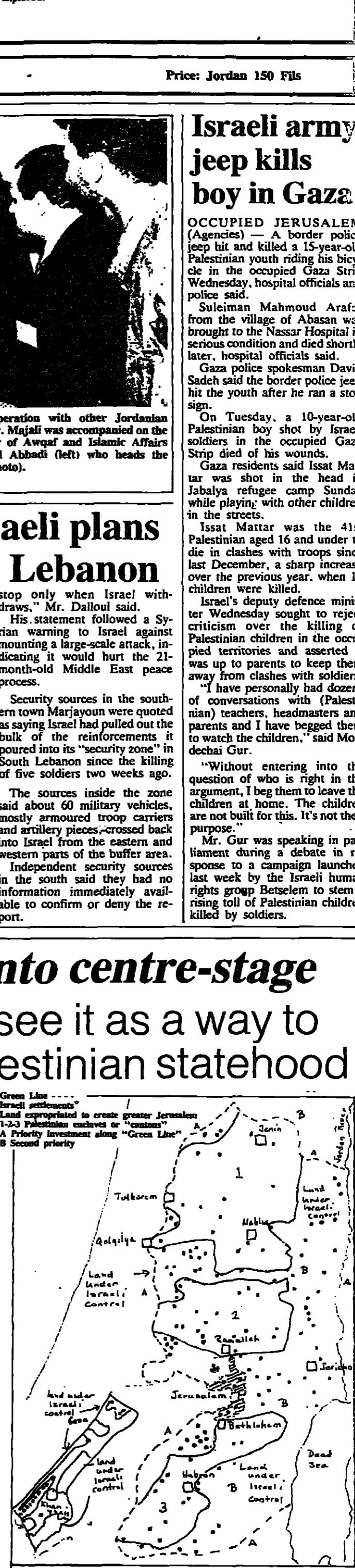
The Palestinian "entity" would also have economic

(Continued on page 10)

Israeli chemical plants harm ozone

TEL AVIV (R) — Greenpeace International has accused Israel of not doing its part to phase out production of a chemical which the environmental group says contributes to the depletion of the ozone layer. "Israel is a major producer and exporter of methyl bromide, which is estimated to cause about five to 10 per cent of ozone layer depletion," Greenpeace Executive Director Paul Gilding wrote to Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid. In the letter written last week but made public Wednesday, Greenpeace said other major producers had decided to phase out the chemical's use, while Israel had not. Mr. Sarid said he would meet Israel's chief methyl bromide producers next week to discuss the issue. Methyl bromide is used primarily as a pesticide and to sterilise soil before crops are planted. Greenpeace suggests alternative farming methods be explored.

MAP OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP



Intellectuals declare war on clerics

Convicted extremist executed in Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — A Muslim extremist convicted of shooting to death a lieutenant colonel in the state security service was executed at Cairo's appeals prison, the state-owned Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported.

Morsi Mohammad Ramadan was hanged Tuesday morning, but the announcement of his death was delayed until the evening.

The government-owned daily Al Akhbar said Wednesday that Ramadan killed the security officer last year in Fayoum, southwest of Cairo. He was riding a motorcycle with two other assailants, who were sentenced to long-prison terms.

His death brings to 15 the number of Muslim radicals executed in the government's campaign to quell an extremist crusade to install strict Islamic rule in place of Egypt's secular government.

Unlike the others, Ramadan was not tried in military court. He was sentenced to death by a security court in May. Eight others have been sentenced to hang by military courts but remain at large.

President Hosni Mubarak began referring cases of militants to military courts last October to speed up the trials. The military trials have been criticised by human rights groups since the defendants are civilians whose only appeal is a plea for clemency to Mr. Mubarak.

The last hangings on Saturday were followed a day later by a shooting attack on an army general in Cairo that led to the deaths of four people in an ensuing shootout. The general was not wounded, and the government later claimed he was not the target.

More than 180 people have been killed since the militants began their violent campaign 18 months ago. Their targets have been officials, foreign tourists and members of the Coptic Christian minority, within the past four months, officials have also blamed the extremists for a

series of bombings in crowded places that have killed and wounded average Egyptians.

Mr. Mubarak, quoted by MENA, said fundamentalists acquitted at the Sadat murder trial "have committed acts of subversion and aggression and have targeted tourism and the country's economy."

Five people found guilty of killing Sadat were executed at the time and a dozen others were given prison terms.

At a meeting with students and lecturers at Cairo University on Tuesday, Mr. Mubarak also said Egyptians who fought with the Mujahideen in Afghanistan were among those engaging in terrorism. Nearly a thousand Egyptians went to Afghanistan in the early 1980s to help the Afghans in their war against Soviet troops.

Such veterans, seven of whom were tried in absentia, were sentenced to death in December by a military court for terrorism and conspiring against the regime.

Ramadan belonged to the Shawkiya, a breakaway faction of the main fundamentalist movement of Gamma Al Islamiyah.

On Saturday, five militants were hanged for an aborted assassination bid on Information Minister Safwat Al Sherif and bombing at tourist sites.

These edicts are aimed at scaring and silencing writers and intellectuals, but we will not allow ignorance to sweep this country. We shall overcome this crisis and remove the siege they are trying to impose on our minds," he said.

Nasr Abu Zeid, a lecturer in the Arabic language department of Cairo University who has been denied promotion to professor for his unorthodox views on Islam, said Egypt was passing through a crisis of "ignorance and backwardness under the name of religion."

The Islamists condemn secular writers as heretics who copy the West, disfigure Islam and poison Muslim minds with books centred on sex. Militant activists are ready to turn condemnation into action and many intellectuals have received threats by telephone letter and live under police guard.

Secular Egyptian intellectuals marking the anniversary of a writer's murder by Muslim militants have declared war on clerics they support extremist religious ideas.

"Stop exploiting religion. Terrorism is not only bullets and bombs but also edicts," read a banner at a rally by writers, academics and doctors in the headquarters of the leftist Union Progress, "Party (UPP) on Monday night.

The event commemorates the death more than a year ago of anti-fundamentalist writer Farag Foda, shot dead by militants last June outside his apartment in Cairo.

Speakers accused establishment clerics, including scholars from the state-run Al Azhar mosque and Islamic University, of suppressing freedom of thought by sanctifying the killing of "heretics," refusing to promote secular academics and banning books.

The terrorist bands are still chasing us. These Islamists want to close a century of culture and civilisation in Egypt and take the country back to the age of ignorance," writer and UPP Secretary-General Rifaa Al Saad said in remarks carried by several newspapers on Tuesday.

Iranian leaders list video films and satellite television programmes among the most effective means of Western cultural influence.

But they increasingly acknowledge that the harmful influence can be fought only by providing a religiously sound alternative to fill young people's leisure time — something Iran's state television has not been able to do so far.

"We should carry out attractive cultural work, and rigid programmes cannot be attractive," Mr. Naeq-Nouri said.

Mr. Elahi indicated a relaxing of the government's campaign against video films and said there were no laws against watching foreign television programmes via satellite.

He said police had no right to arrest people just for carrying video tapes in the street, or to check video tapes in a house they enter on other business.

Secular Egyptian intellectuals marking the anniversary of a writer's murder by Muslim militants

Vice is spreading in Iran — cleric

TEHRAN (R) — Social vices are spreading in Iran at a "dizzying" pace and cannot be fully stopped by police action, a senior anti-vice official was quoted as saying on Tuesday.

"Social corruption is spreading in the country at a dizzying rate," Salam newspaper quoted Jawad Elahi, deputy director of the police anti-vice bureau, as saying. "Only cultural work can be effective in this regard. Action by law enforcement forces can curb vices only to a limited extent."

His remarks were the most explicit admission by a senior official that what Iran's Islamic leaders term a "Western cultural offensive" has been highly successful.

But his emphasis on ineffectiveness of force in wiping out vices echoed a theme picked up by many top officials a month after police launched a crackdown on women flouting Iran's strict Islamic dress code.

"We can in no way face up to the cultural offensive by violence," Majlis (Parliament) Speaker Ali Akbar Naeq-Nouri said in remarks carried by several newspapers on Tuesday.

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Secular Egyptian intellectuals marking the anniversary of a writer's murder by Muslim militants

Turkey warns against support for rebel Kurds

ANKARA (Agencies) — Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has promised an unrelenting fight against Kurdish separatism and warned unnamed foreign powers against supporting it.

"We will also deal more effectively with all the external sources of terrorism whether around us or in Europe. All those who want to be friends of Turkey should make their choice. Those who would be enemies of Turkey should think not once, but twice," Ms. Ciller said in a nationally televised address.

Shortly before her address, Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Reza Bagheri was summoned to the Foreign Ministry to be told of Turkey's displeasure about attacks carried out by Turkish Kurdish rebels infiltrating from Iran, the semi-official Anatolia news agency said.

The Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) has been fighting a guerrilla war for Kurdish self-rule in southeastern Turkey since 1984. Over 6,000 soldiers, rebels and civilians have died since then.

Ms. Ciller's hardline followed an intensification of the fighting in the area after the guerrillas ended a two-month unilateral truce and resumed attacks in late May when the government snubbed their calls for autonomy talks.

About 140,000 government troops backed by jets and helicopters are engaged in operations against some 5,000 guerrillas.

Turkey believes several thousand other guerrillas who survived cross-border strikes at their mountain camps in northern Iraq last year have moved to Iran.

Addressing the nation two weeks after she took office, Ms. Ciller issued a call for national unity, saying the "vast, silent majority" of Turkey's 12 million Kurds do not support the "terrorists."

She also pledged stiff punishment for the perpetrators of a fundamentalist violence in the central Turkish city of Sivas where Muslim fanatics, angered by the presence of a left-wing editor who published portions of Salman Rushdie's novel "Satanic Verses," torched a hotel, killing 37 people.

Turkey also has accused Iran of training and supporting Muslim fanatics who killed secular writers and professors in recent years.

"They feel people have forgotten them," Lord Ennals said in a telephone interview. He said he believed the Kurds were vulnerable to renewed attacks by Iraqi forces while the West's attention was diverted by crises in Bosnia and Somalia.

"I am fearful that something might happen that would end what safety they have," he said. "They are very vulnerable."

Lord Ennals, a former Labour Party member of parliament and Foreign Office minister, said food supplies were "very inadequate... there is very little to eat."

He said it was too early to talk of starvation, but he did find evidence of malnutrition. He said that in the towns people were subsisting on bread and tea, although in country areas chickens and vegetables were available.

"There were certainly signs of malnutrition," he said.

Lord Ennals, who was arrested in Turkey on his way home and spent the night in an Istanbul jail before being released on Monday with an apology, said that people were dying because of a lack of medicines, although he could give no figures.

He visited the main hospital in the city of Erbil. "Without doubt people are dying because there are no medicines," he said, adding that a doctor at the hospital told him he had just sold his refrigerator to raise money for medical supplies.

"I was very struck by the declining economy of the country and the injustice of a situation in which people who have suffered so much under Saddam Hussein are now continuing to suffer because of the double embargo against them," Lord Ennals said.

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JULY 22-23, 1993

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli Arab legislator to meet Arafat

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli Arab legislator said he was leaving for Tunis Friday to discuss the Middle East peace process with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat. Abdel Wahab Darawshe, head of the Arab Democratic Party, which holds two of the 120 seats in parliament, emphasised he would not be representing the Israeli government on the trip. "I am going to meet PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat," Mr. Darawshe told Israel Radio Wednesday. "We will talk about the problems facing the peace process today. I am not going to convey messages. This visit is my own initiative." Israel outlawed contact between its citizens and the PLO in 1986. The ban was revoked in January but Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin continues to oppose official contacts. Rabin spokesman Gad Ben-Ari told Reuters: "Whatever contacts Darawshe makes with Tunis are his own business and it has nothing to do with the prime minister or the prime minister's office or with the government."

Morocco protests emigrants' expulsion

RABAT (R) — The Foreign Ministry has protested to Spain against "police repression" of Moroccan emigrant workers in the southern Spanish port of Algeciras, the official news agency MAP said Wednesday. The agency said the protest was handed Monday to Spanish Ambassador Joaquin Ortega Salinas after 167 emigrant workers were ordered back home when they arrived in Algeciras aboard the ferry Bismillah on Sunday. According to press reports, published in Morocco, 11 of the emigrants were injured, including a woman and a seven-year-old child, when the Spanish police intervened. The reports alleged that the emigrants were found with forged documents. The Spanish police had "summarily confiscated without any right the travel and work documents of these citizens and turned them back to Morocco," Foreign Ministry statement said. It added that the Spanish ambassador was handed "an energetic protest against these actions and unacceptable force against Moroccan nationals, simply travellers transiting through Spain." More than 300,000 Moroccan emigrants have crossed the straits of Gibraltar between Morocco and Spain this summer after spending summer holidays in their home country.

Mohammad Ali continues PoW mission

BAGHDAD (R) — Boxing legend Mohammad Ali left Baghdad for Tehran Wednesday after failing to work his old magic with President Saddam Hussein. He is on a mission to win an exchange of prisoners from the 1980-1989 Iran-Iraq war. Mr. Ali, who took American hostages home with him during the Gulf crisis after meeting President Saddam just before the start of the 1991 war over Kuwait, was not received this time by the Iraqi leader. Instead he met Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of the revolutionary command council. An adviser to Mr. Ali, Bennett Johnson, said the former boxing champion would continue the mission in Tehran, taking back a message from the Iraqi government before he returned to the United States. Mr. Ali, who converted to Islam after becoming world champion in the 1960s, met senior Iranian officials in Tehran before coming to Baghdad about 10 days ago.

Gangsters rule U.S., says Iraqi paper

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi newspaper published by President Saddam Hussein's son said Wednesday the United States was ruled by gangsters whose only aim was inflicting miseries on Americans and other peoples. "The least that could be said about them (U.S. rulers) is that they are ignorant, arrogant and malicious," Babel, published by Saddam's eldest son Uday, said in an editorial. "America today is a centre of danger and killing epidemics," Babel said. It said the reason was the presence of "an indecisive president and foolish officials bringing disgrace on America and misery on other people." Babel's diatribe came two days after a senior U.N. envoy struck a deal with Baghdad on long-term monitor of the country's weapons potential which Iraq rejected in the past. Iraq blames the continuation of U.N. sanctions imposed in response to its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait on America's tough policies against it.

Britain defends use of uranium-tipped weapons

LONDON (R) — Britain, responding to charges it exposed its Gulf war troops to toxic uranium-tipped shells, said Tuesday such weapons were vital to the war effort. Defence Minister Jeremy Hanley said the shells, tipped with armour-piercing depleted uranium, posed an "infinitesimal" health risk to their users but had proved to be life-savers. "We only use ordnance as sophisticated and effective as this if it is intended to save our lives," he said. "This particular ordnance is extremely effective and gets through the toughest armour, therefore our lives were saved because of its use." Only 88 of the uranium-tipped shells were fired by British forces in the United Nations coalition which forced Iraqi occupation forces out of Kuwait in 1991," Mr. Hanley said. Several hundred U.S. soldiers have complained of strange and unexplained health problems they say are due to the use of the depleted uranium shells. The condition has come to be called "desert fever" or "desert storm syndrome." Mr. Hanley said there was no evidence that the syndrome existed as a separate medical condition. However, he added, Britain's Defence Ministry was seeking further information.

Moroccan union says, 57 strikers arrested

RABAT (R) — Moroccan authorities have arrested 12 fishing boat crewmen on strike in the northern port of Nador, bringing to 57 the number of strikers arrested this month, the union Marocaine du Travail (UMT) Labour federation said Tuesday. In a statement, the UMT said the 12 had been charged with disturbing the peace and hindering freedom to work. Fishermen have been on strike in Nador since July 16 in protest against changes in regulations that reduce their income. Suspended prison terms of three months each were passed on 18 other industrial workers convicted of hindering freedom to work by picketing plants during strikes. Another group of 27 strikers employed on a farm in the Gharb area north of Nador appeared in court on Monday and were granted provisional liberty while the court deliberated, the UMT said. A group of 300 teachers and civil servants, are currently on an unlimited hunger strike at the Rabat offices of the UMT.

Battle over immigrants from Yemen sparks Israeli uproar

By Neil MacFarquhar
The Associated Press

REHOVOT — The minibus pulled up to the absorption centre and disgorged a group of devout Jews in black suits who immediately started interrogating Yemenite immigrants about their eating habits.

"What do you put on your meat? Do you put salt on it?" a bearded Israeli demanded from one Yemeni, still wearing his forelocks and colourful village skull cap.

The questions Tuesday about kosher food are part of the battle for the souls of the new immigrants. Religious parties are squabbling over whether the Yemenites are getting the proper indoctrination.

Secular Israelis are furious that the religious bickering has spread to yet another issue. They fear the publicity this time will jeopardise quiet efforts to bring the last 1,000 Jews out of Yemen.

The 250 Yemenites who arrived over the past year are the first in over 30 years. It reminds Israel of the famous "Operation Magic Carpet" airlift that transferred most of the

Yemenites like the dietary consultants who rode the bus from the town of Bnei Brak Tuesday. The devout believe that lack of formal religious studies in the absorption process means the government is pushing secular — to them a dirty word — values over the religious tradition.

The attempt to pollute the immigrants in the famous Israeli "melting pot" is enough to cause deep unease," said an opinion piece in the Haredi camp, a weekly published by ultraorthodox Jews.

The commentary said they all remember the first wave of immigration from Yemen in the 1950s when "Jews who had kept tradition from the beginning of time entered and came out as 'secular' Israelis."

But the fight on the pages of the ultrareligious papers leaked into the mainstream press. Fundis on television

talk shows blasted the tabloid newspapers for using the battle to fuel circulation wars.

More than 40,000 Yemenites came in Operation Magic Carpet, which started after Israel's creation in 1948. They continued coming until 1961, when political changes in Yemen stemmed the flow until last year.

The Yemeni government has said it will not prevent emigration through other countries, but the immigrants are worried that fanatical tribal leaders in northern Yemen might block it. Most Jews in Yemen are craftsmen and poor.

The new immigrants themselves appear content to let the political fight go on well over their heads while they catch up with long lost relatives. They are welcomed with the narcotic khat leaves they chewed in Yemen and traditional water pipes.

"The situation was ok in Yemen," said Suleiman Fayed, a 34-year-old who arrived six weeks ago. "But I always had it in the back of my mind to come here. I have family here. We belong here."

News about immigration, long barred by Arab countries, is usually censored.

But the fight on the pages of the ultrareligious papers leaked into the mainstream press. Fundis on television



Yemenite Jews descend from their bus and hug their families as they arrive at the absorption centre in Ashkelon (AFP photo)

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defense Department 661111

Civil Defense Immediate Rescue 630341

Queen outlines Jordan's human development strides

AMMAN (J.T.) — Participating in a two-day meeting in Paris on strategies to accelerate human development, Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday presented a paper highlighting Jordan's achievements in promoting human development and the problems faced by the country as a result of social, economic and political constraints.

Queen Noor is a member of the International Commission on Peace and Food, which is organizing the meeting of the Working Group on Strategies to Accelerate Human Development.

The paper incorporated three case studies as practical and workable models for accelerating human development, with an emphasis on women and rural underprivileged communities.

The case studies include the Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Project and the Jordan River Enterprise, the Medicinal Herbs Scheme in Bani Kinanah and the Quality of Life Project, all initiated by the Noor Al-Hussein Foundation and designed as prototype development models.

Founded in April 1989, the International Commission on Peace and Food is an independent non-political, non-profit organization of concerned scientists and professionals from 19 nations.

It works to promote world peace and international development by redirecting resources

from military expenditures into practical programmes to achieve peace and political security for all nations, to fight the war against hunger, poverty and increased drug use worldwide, and to fund integrated and comprehensive efforts to protect the environment.

The chairman of the commission, Dr. Swaminathan, is the first recipient of the World Food Prize.

Members include former U.S. First Lady Rosalynn Carter, Nobel Peace laureate Norman Borlaug, as well as other distinguished members.

Much of the commission's activity is centred in the working groups, each of which is preparing a chapter for the final report to be presented at a meeting of all working groups of the commission at the Carter Center in October.

The final report will be presented at the Summit on Social Development which the United Nations is organizing on the occasion of its 50th anniversary in 1995.

The Working Group on Strategies to Accelerate Human Development is discussing the importance of education for girls and women world-wide to improve family income, agricultural productivity, environmental clean-up, and demographic factors.

Queen Noor also met with French Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Lucette Michaux-Chevry to discuss the possibilities for international assistance to Jordan in its efforts to care for the Bosnian refugees, in addition to other areas of cooperation between France and Jordan on pressing humanitarian issues.

Health Ministry issues anti-smoking advisory

Activists accuse 'vested interests' of preempting action

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Ministry of Health has issued a tough advisory calling for sweeping measures against smoking in public places, but officials as well as anti-smoking campaigners admit that the regulations are easier issued than enforced.

While Dr. Malhas did not detail the problems facing the authorities in implementing the strict enforcement of anti-smoking regulations, other officials and social workers accused "vested interests" of preempting decisive government action.

"Restaurant owners are a major lobbying group," said a senior official. "They could bring heavy pressure to bear upon the authorities since their business could be adversely affected by any ban against smoking in their establishments."

The tobacco industry in the country, as anywhere else, will "create such an uproar," added the official.

Dr. Malhas said it was up to the public to realize the dangers inherent in smoking and for smokers to request their clients not to smoke.

Violators are supposed to be reported to the nearest police station.

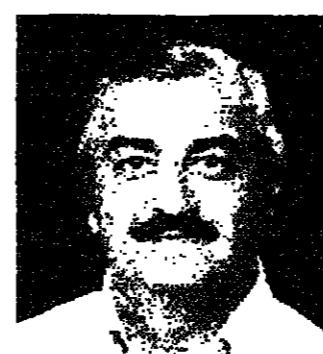
Five-star and four-star restaurants are asked to segregate smokers and non-smokers. Others are asked not only to put up no-smoking signs, but also to request their clients not to smoke.

He pointed out that international studies have proved beyond doubt that "passive smoking" — non-smokers unconsciously forced to inhale smoke puffed out by smokers — was a major health hazard.

Those who want to die of smoking-related diseases are welcome to do so, he said. "But they should not expose others around them to danger."

Dr. Zuhair Malhas, head of the Jordan Anti-Smoking Society and a former minister of health, criticized the government for not taking forceful action.

"There is no commitment at



Abdul Rahim Malhas

the government level," he said. "What commitment can you expect when senior officials and influential people have no interest in the issue?"

Dr. Malhas cited as examples several unnamed officials who he said were occupying senior positions, including high posts in universities, but have interests in the tobacco industry.

"Can or will these people be committed to curbing smoking?"

The former minister, a renowned physician, welcomed the advisory issued by the Ministry of Health as a "timely reminder" of the health hazards inherent in smoking.

"It is ironic to see officials and the public mobilizing themselves against epidemics such as cholera and do nothing to counter the dangers posed by smoking when it is well known that smoking poses much greater health hazards and economic losses than any epidemic," he said.

The former minister criticised the overall system, which he said, "allows people with vested interests in the tobacco industry assume senior government posts, including Cabinet posts."

"How can anyone expect these



Zuhair Malhas

people to launch any initiative or set good models for others?"

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"How can anyone expect these

peculiarities of Jordan which is not much different from any other Third World country.

"We have a Ministry of Finance which has a special fund to support the tobacco industry and a Ministry of Supply which imports foreign cigarettes, thus indirectly encouraging smoking," he said.

The "economic loss" that the former minister referred to is not strictly in terms of the cost of tobacco that goes up in flames every day.

"Scientific studies have proven that a smoker who catches a common cold takes more time than a non-smoker takes to recover," he said. "Isn't it an economic loss in terms of national productivity?"

The former minister said 85 percent of all heart diseases reported at the King Hussein Medical Centre were somehow or another related to smoking.

The only risk factor among these cases was the common denominator that they were all smokers," he said.

No definite figures are available on smoking-related cancer cases in Jordan.

But, the head of the anti-smoking society said, "Jordan will definitely see an increase in the number of lung cancer cases in the next 10 years if the present smoking trend in the country continues."

"Do we wait until the cases surface or do something about it now?"

British Institute releases book on Roman, Islamic Amman

By Sausan Ghosheh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After six years of excavations in Amman, British archaeologist Austin Northedge culminated his work in authoring a book entitled "Studies on Roman and Islamic Amman."

The book, the first comprehensive study of the archaeological history of the capital, covers three periods dating back to 2000-3000 B.C. until the rebuilding of Amman with the advent of the Circassians in 1880.

The book is significant because it gathers all the history of archaeology in Amman, something not done before. It also publishes old pictures gathered from different archives," said William Lancaster, director of the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History (BIAAH), at a press conference Wednesday.

Unlike other Jordanian cities, such as Jerash and Petra, in Amman ruins are not apparent and are lost amid the modernity of the capital, Mr. Lancaster added, stressing the hard work that went into the production of the book.

Traditionally, archaeologists were primarily concerned with Roman history in Amman, but recently there has been renewed interest in Islamic archaeology and Dr. Northedge

edge's book reflects this new direction, he stated.

Dr. Northedge, a lecturer of Islamic art and archaeology at the Sorbonne in France, wrote the chapter on the history of Amman since Islam and until 1880, leaving the other two chapters dealing with the pre-Roman-pre-Greek era and the Roman and the coming of Islam era, to other specialists.

While Amman was dwindling as the primary city in Jordan, Karak followed by Salt began to occupy its place, he added.

The rise and fall of Amman as the capital city of Jordan is closely tied to the role Arab tribes play in the political power structure, Dr. Northedge explained.

The Umayyad rule, like the current Jordanian political system, he said, depended mainly on good relations with desert tribes.

Amman's proximity to the desert and to tribes thus allowed it to prosper. But with the advent of non-Arab empires in the region, the significance of the Arab tribes began to diminish, taking with it the importance given to Amman.

To celebrate the publication of Studies on Roman and Islamic Amman Volume I: History, Site and Architecture, the BIAAH will feature an exhibition of British archaeological projects in Jordan from July 25 to August 5, at the Royal Cultural Centre. The exhibition will later tour around Jordanian universities, and different secondary schools across the Kingdom.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent meets officers

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday called at the Royal Force Command and held a meeting with senior air force officers. He was briefed on the airforce's duties. The Regent Wednesday also sent a cable of good wishes to Poland's President Lech Walesa on his country's national day. Prince Hassan wished the president continued good health and happiness and further progress for the Polish people.

Prince Abdullah visits PSD

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein visited the Public Security Department (PSD) Wednesday and met its Director Major General Abdul Rahman Al Udwan. He later toured the PSD's Communications Centre and was briefed on its services.

Majali visits GHO

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday visited Army Headquarters and discussed matters of concern to the Jordanian Armed Forces with Lieutenant General Abdul Hafez Mirai Al Kaabneh, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

World Bank reviews projects

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting team from the World Bank Wednesday discussed with Minister of Public Works and Housing Khalaf Hawari the ministry's third transport project which entails new road projects and road maintenance. The two sides also reviewed the country's land transport strategies. The minister requested that Jordanian contractors be involved in the implementation of World Bank financed projects in Jordan.

Syrian officials review posts

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting team from the Syrian Postal Department met Abdullah Al Jazi, the Ministry of Post and Communications secret-

ary general and were briefed on Jordan's postal services. The focus of the Syrian team's interest was the process of channelling students' applications to universities through the post offices, a practice adopted in Jordan for the last several years.

ICRC, PSD closer ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Prospects for closer cooperation between the Amman office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Public Security Department (PSD) were discussed here Wednesday by ICRC Head of Delegation in Amman Michel Duxraux and PSD Director Abdul Rahman Al Udwan. The PSD seeks to cooperate with the ICRC in all humanitarian matters, said PSD chief.

Hotel, restaurants shut down

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Health Committee in Amman Wednesday ordered the closure of Al Hilal Hotel and three restaurants in the Amman area, saying they had violated safety rules. The committee also issued warnings to another group of hotels and restaurants for similar violations.

Zarqa rids streets of vendors

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa Municipality Wednesday embarked on a general campaign to rid the city of street vendors, which followed numerous public complaints about problems caused as a result of the presence of these vendors who were said to be impeding the flow of traffic in some areas.

Arab youth camp ends

JERASH (Petra) — A week-long camp attended by 200 youngsters from Jordan, Iraq, Tunisia, Palestine and Oman came to a close Wednesday. The youth, who had camped in Debbin, a wooded area near Jerash, were involved in handicraft work, farming and seminars and made trips to archaeological sites in the Kingdom.

FIRST GRADUATES: Minister of Education and Higher Education Tuesday evening awards the first batch of students to graduate from the Amman College for Applied Engineering. Dr. Al Omari delivered an address at the ceremony, commanding the role of the college, which is considered a model for local and regional colleges and enjoys a good reputation

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Syrian artist Sakhr Farzat at the Balka Art Gallery, Fubeis City.
- ★ Art exhibition by Jamal Khmeish and Jihad Abu Suleiman at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Fadwa Al Nabulsi at the Phoenix Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of a new collection of art works by Princess Wijdan Ali at The Gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings and ceramics by Ali Al Mi'mar, Hazem Al Zubi, Abdul Raouf Shabani and Jalal Ureigat at Eshbelia Art Gallery, 6th Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture entitled "Views of the Neanderthals — Their Relationship to Us" by Dr. Geoffrey Clark of Arizona State University at 7 p.m. at the American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR).

JERASH FESTIVAL

- ★ Concert by Bashar and Ayman Zarqan on Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8 p.m.
- ★ Piano recital by Waled Aqel on Friday at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8 p.m.
- ★ Arabic play entitled "Arabian Arab Summit" on Thursday and Friday at 8:30 p.m. at the Southern Theatre of Jerash (Starring top Jordanian comedians Nabil Sawalha and Hisham Yanis).
- ★ Arabic children's play entitled "Samira and the Princess" on Thursday and Friday at 5 p.m. at the Palace of Culture.

Specialists to focus on Western Asia unemployment

AMMAN (J.T.) — The unemployment situation in the countries of Western Asia will be the focus of a meeting in Amman on July 26 by the Ministry of Planning and the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

Ten working papers, by experts from countries in the western Asia region, will treat policies on unemployment, organisational reform, returning workers from the Gulf crisis and case studies in Lebanon, Palestine and Saudi Arabia, according to an ESCWA statement Wednesday.

The statement said experts taking part in the four-day meeting

Engineers to discuss forming central panel

concern to the 28,805 JEA members are decided on by the council alone, but a central council would involve both the council members and the general assembly in the process of deciding on matters of interest to the JEA, said the engineers.

Proponents of the idea of the central council are divided into two groups, the first supports the notion of transferring all authority of the projected council except the election of the council members which they believe should be left to the general assembly.

The second supports the idea of retaining the general authority in the council while the central council would be entrusted with following up the implementation of decisions and holding the council accountable for any shortcomings.

At present, they said matters of

Author Slavenka Drakulic: 'We are the war'

By Justin Keay

LONDON — Two years after it started, the crisis in former Yugoslavia shows no sign of being resolved. Indeed, it has induced "compassion fatigue" among Westerners who have grown tired of the endless accusations and counter-accusations and the relentlessly tedious (and largely useless) peace negotiations. Slavenka Drakulic is the perfect antidote. Lively, outspoken and with an excellent command of the English language, she is determined not to allow the horror of what is still taking place to be clouded by political or diplomatic obfuscation.

Born 44 years ago in Rijeka, an industrial port in Croatia, she read comparative sociology and literature at Zagreb University before making her name in journalism.

A few years ago, she published *How We Survived Communism And Even Laughed*, a collection of essays which somehow managed to cast new light on how it was to live in a Communist society. Eschewing a political or even sociological approach, Drakulic wrote frankly about day to day problems and triumphs. She does much the same in *Balkan Express: Fragments From The Other Side Of War* to be published in the U.S. next month. Her novel *Marble Skin*, which deals with mother-daughter relationships, is also scheduled to be published later in the year.

Critics have never been able to categorise Drakulic: She is widely described as feminist, in the sense that she writes from a woman's point of view, but the label somehow seems inadequate.

Balkan Express is described as "literary non-fiction": A label broadly endorsed by Drakulic.

"I don't know what the war is ... but I can see that it is everywhere. It is in a street flooded with blood after 20 people have died in a bread queue in Sarajevo. But it is also in your not understanding it, in my unconscious cruelty towards you ... in the way that it is growing within us and changing our emotions, our relations, our values. We are the war ... we make it possible, we allow it to happen" (from *Balkan Express*).

In Drakulic's book, history is as real and significant as something that happened yesterday, often distorted and exaggerated and sometimes imagined, but always continuing to hold people in its grip.

Balkan Express is about an atomised society where people have become preoccupied with keeping themselves and their families alive. Clearly, to Drakulic, something inside has died: The war has damaged people's sense of themselves in the world, it has damaged their humanity.

Drakulic maintains that her book "picks up where the news stops, it fits somewhere in between hard facts and analysis and personal stories, because the war is happening not only at the front, but everywhere and to us all."

She sees the war as somehow real and surreal at the same time: Even people who are caught up in it, there is a sense of otherness, that really it is all happening to somebody else, somewhere else. Not in Europe, surely? Can such medieval horror, based on such primitive prejudice, really happen where children wear Bart Simpson T-shirts and where Madonna sings her latest hit on MTV? One is left with a sense of something that has spiralled out of control, but is yet so horrific that it is hard to give it credence.

During a visit to London she agreed to an exclusive interview.

Question: You write in *Balkan Express* that the achievements of the new Croatia will have to be "considerable indeed, because the independence stinks of death." Elsewhere in the book you refer to the strange, quasifascist atmosphere currently prevailing in the country. How are things there? Do you see any signs of the wounds of war healing?



In the *Balkan Express* author Slavenka Drakulic portrays the psychological wounds inflicted by war

Answer: "No, I don't see any signs of healing. I think Croatia is in a strange, in-between stage: There is neither peace nor war. This makes people nervous: You can deal with certainty, but it is hard to cope with this not knowing. The frontline is still only 30 miles from Zagreb — and this induces a certain schizophrenia. I must say that there is also a certain bitterness among people on the Dalmatian coast that they bore the brunt of the war against the Serbs: People in places like Dubrovnik and Zadar still live in daily fear of being shelled. They are a long way from getting their lives back together."

"I feel that this war has changed everybody: In Europe as well as former Yugoslavia. Europe just didn't know how to respond to the problem of refugees, to countries set on changing their borders. They used euphemisms, not wanting to accept the reality. If Europe doesn't know how to deal with minority issues here, what will happen in the future with the former Soviet Union? And many of the republics involved there have nuclear weapons. Rules must be set, rather than the present policy of endless negotiations, of the U.N. going into war areas without a mandate to fight back."

Q: How do you feel things got to this stage in former Yugoslavia? How could a society, where people had lived alongside each other apparently without incident for the past two generations, just fall apart?

A: "This war was manufactured from the very top, and pushed down through the media. War memories were

revived by the Serbs, and distorted: Croats responded in kind. Once the first house was blown up, it was the start of a bloody chain. Volunteers came over to Croatia — and then Bosnia — from Serbia and started threatening local Serbs if they didn't agree to fight."

"In the earlier 1980s, you couldn't really feel tension, except in Kosovo. There were many mixed marriages: For many people, for my generation and younger, nationality had ceased to mean anything. (Serbian President Slobodan) Milosevic shifted the focus of debate from social and economic issues to nationalism. Tensions started building up: You see this but you can't imagine that it could lead to war. Maybe in Croatia, the Serb minority was not handled well, but it seems it was too late: Arms had already been smuggled in."

Q: You are often described as a feminist writer. Do you agree with this description?

A: "Certainly. I am a feminist — but I'm not ideological about it. I write from a woman's point of view: In *Balkan Express* and *How We Survived Communism* the view is from below, from the kitchen window, if you like. Everybody who is experiencing this war is doing so in their own way: I am trying to show how people are being changed by it. People have had enough military and political analysis: They need to see what lies behind it."

Q: I have read *Marble Skin*: The descriptions of the daughter-mother-lover relationships in particular are quite remarkable. What was the genesis of this story? What were you trying to get across?

A: "For a very long time, I had wanted to write about the 'sexual mother': I feel it is the last taboo. Nobody wants to discuss it: Children — daughters in particular — find the notion hard to accept, and the mother's silence on the matter is hypocritical. The people in the book are very ordinary: They don't even have a discernible nationality. The book is fundamentally about emotions, about people and their feelings. It goes very deep."

Q: How has the book been received?

A: "Very well in Croatia: It's also doing well in Holland and Belgium. I look forward to seeing how it does in the U.K. and the U.S.: The British in particular are very closed to matters sexual and they might feel the book is too open."

"Funnily enough, some of the best reactions to the book have come from men: Many have told me that reading it helped them understand women. Certainly, I think that women who had problems relating to their own mothers might feel uncomfortable with it."

Q: What are your future plans?

A: "I'm working on a book about the 1945-55 generation in former Yugoslavia: My generation. We endured the end of the war, Stalinism, the reform era, and now, war again. To be honest, we never thought we'd see the collapse of communism: It deprived us of the ability to see into the future, so we came to feel that there was no future beyond it. All these changes are hard for us. It is very difficult to transform your entire outlook and life at 45. I think we really need to understand what it is that has happened. We need to get a proper perspective."

"As regards the future generally, I am very pessimistic. Europe was so naive to think that the collapse of communism could be bloodless: Democracy must be built. At the moment, though, we are facing a new world disorder. The rules have not been set, and this makes me very fearful" — *World News Link*.

BOOK REVIEWS

Throwing light into dark places

Sleeping On A Wire: Conversations With Palestinians In Israel

By David Grossman
Jonathan Cape, London 1993, £17.99

David Grossman's first book, *The Yellow Wind*, explored the attitudes of Palestinians living under occupation in the West Bank and of the Israeli settlers who had made their homes among them. The book made its young author's reputation, one which he has since enhanced by writing two successful novels. Reading his new book is to realise, with an infinite sense of pathos and nostalgia, that things might have been different in Palestine, that the conflict between Jews and Arabs could long since have been resolved, had a different attitude of mind prevailed among Israel's founding fathers and their successors down the years.

Instead, as David Grossman makes clear with a wealth of detailed illustration, Israel's leaders have made use of a combination of legislative manipulation and simple coercion to ensure that the Palestinian minority — one fifth of the population of Israel — should not enjoy a proportionate share of the benefits of life there. And the Palestinians, out of a mixture of fear and mistrust, have remained passive, have tried to be as inconspicuous as possible — or, in Grossman's vivid image, have behaved like tightrope walkers who sense danger and have stopped in mid-air. Unwilling to go forward and unable to go back, they remain in uneasy suspension, "sleeping on the wire".

The author must know that what he writes here will make him deeply unpopular with the majority of his countrymen. His critics do not mean it as a compliment when they call him "the conscience of Israel", in the tone of voice that Menachem Begin used to adopt when he dismissed as "bleeding hearts" those Israelis who protested about human rights violations in the occupied territories. But Grossman is clear in his own mind about what he is doing. Shocked, as he explains in the last chapter, to discover that many Palestinians expect one day to be deported from Israel, he addresses himself in these terms to an imaginary Palestinian: "In the book I am now writing,

there is the desire, which I do not always know how to realise (but which now, at least, I am confident of), to make room for you here." In other words, his aim is to show how finally, after 45 years, the Palestinians in Israel could and should be integrated into Israeli life.

To this objective Grossman brings, apart from honesty and a willingness to look unwelcome facts in the face, a modesty which disarms criticism and lends an almost childlike sincerity to his far-reaching judgments. For instance, when he recounts the terrible story of the village of Ikrat and Biram, occupied by the Israeli army which defied a Supreme Court order to allow the return of their inhabitants and blew up the villages before their eyes, he is the first to ask why he knew so little of excesses and inequalities which made the Palestinians into strangers in their own land.

It is a question that ought to be put, not just to every Israeli, but to anyone who accepts without question Israel's two-tier system of citizenship. Of the many moving and revealing conversations recorded here, perhaps the most striking is one in which a Jewish woman married to a Palestinian describes the complex pattern of discrimination to which she is subjected on account of her husband, an Israeli citizen like herself. She has had to develop what Grossman has consciously acquired and what he calls "a Jewish-Arab double focus". It helps him a lot, he says; helps him to notice things that his Jewish fellow-citizens ignore; the road signs in Hebrew only, although Arabic is an official language in Israel; the Hebrew warning signs on poisonous fluids and dangerous drugs and high-tension cables. But then, as that Jewish wife of a Palestinian observes: "When an Arab child is hurt, no one knows who he is, what his name is, who his parents are. He doesn't exist. He's inconsequential. But when a Jewish child is hurt, they make a whole spectacle of it: They show him on television, give his biography, who his grandfather and grandmother are."

That vision lends distinction to David Grossman's work, as well as the strength of an imagination that enables him to stand in another man's shoes and to feel what that man feels, despite the superficial difference between them. It is a pity that *Sleeping on a Wire* was not written years ago. Throwing light into dark places, it exposes prejudice and fear as the enemies that have to be overcome if there is ever to be peace — not just a settlement — in Palestine — Middle East International.

Michael Adams

The story of the rise and decline of the Ottoman empire has a grandeur and sweep to it that the best of the earlier historians — Edward Creasy, William Miller — vividly captured. In our own time the works by M.S. Anderson and Bernard Lewis substituted rigour for glamour, while Lord Kinross and Peter Mansfield reinstated the colourful vision. These authors set high standards for English-language writers on Ottoman history. The books by William Langer are also helpful, if one takes note of the fact that he was working for the CIA.

Unfortunately Alan Palmer is not in that league. His new book is unexciting, and the author seems over-keen not to give offence to the ruling nationality. The complex web of European diplomatic involvements in the empire is never brought into clear focus. Although the Ottoman empire was a political structure with subject peoples, like its British and Chinese counterparts, Ottoman subject nations such as the Arabs (who outnumbered the Turks) receive only cursory attention. Palmer's emphasis is duly statistic, focussing on the centre of power and its capacity (some would say incapacity) to keep the show on the road. He has little to say on the issue of Islamic statism, while developing ideas and notions within the empire, such as religious scepticism and the rise of secular nationalism, and the immensely important ideology of pan-Turkism, current at the time of World War I, pass with hardly a mention.

Palmer virtually ignores the impact of Ottoman indecision (after 1875) on European attitudes to the empire, which arguably constituted a more important issue than the empire's Islamic structure. His timid reliance on the Turkish version reaches absurd proportions in the account of the Armenian question of 1894-6, which could only have been written by deliberately ignoring large quantities of impartial published British sources — Middle East International.

Christopher J. Walker

Avoiding offence

The Decline And Fall Of The Ottoman Empire

By Alan Palmer

John Murray, London 1992, £25

Diary

EDITORIAL DOUBLESPEAK: An anonymous reader this week tried to help the Jordan Times do its job. He or she sent copies of two articles, one in Arabic and the other in English, both written by responsible editor of *Ad-Dustour* daily, Dr. Mousa Keilani. In the first, which was published in *Ad-Dustour* on July 7, Dr. Keilani wrote under the title "One Person, One Vote" the following: "The intelligent move to air His Majesty King Hussein's meeting (with the senators) was a precedent on which our brothers in television should be congratulated. It had a positive impact on (our) citizens who were able to listen to the dialogue... away from hypocrisy... Our brothers did well to repeat the transmission of the meeting..." In the English column, which the *Jordan Times* published for him the following day, Dr. Keilani wrote about the same topic, only that he seems to have changed his mind just a little bit about the T.V. coverage. He wrote: "I believe it was counterproductive to air the discussions between the King and the Senate last month. It prejudiced the one-person-one-vote formula." Is this a case of double speak on Dr. Keilani's part, the anonymous reader meant to ask, or is it political schizophrenia in as far as the election law is concerned. At the time of writing yesterday, the *Diary* tried to find the right answer from the man himself. But he was nowhere to be found.

★ ★ ★

AUTOCRATS VS. DEMOCRATS: Speaking of information and doublespeak it appears as though this new era of democracy we are passing through has not really impressed all members of the Majali government. A new television programme, which was created to present differing points of view in the political spectrum, is facing its own problems with schizophrenic attitudes. The presenter of the said programme figured that it would be off to a good start if she could cover all shades of political opinion in the official media. Armed by the pleasant memory of a conversation she had had with the information minister, Maan Abu Nowar, just before he took his Cabinet post, about the need to involve television in covering the activities of political parties, the presenter set off to do her job with no worries about possible censorship. Alas, word had somehow reached a different level of decision-making in the Cabinet before the programme went on the air. One cabinet member even wanted to spike the programme altogether. The case went to the top echelons of government where a decision had to be made on whether the rejectionist minister or the Information Ministry would be the final arbiter on the matter. The rejectionist naturally won, but not exactly. Intensive lobbying by political parties who were informed of what was taking place, made it possible to reverse the earlier decision and the programme finally made it to the airwaves. Happy ending to what might have been a typical fight between democracy and autocracy. But there is more in store, for old autocrats never give up.

★ ★ ★

TRIBALISM FOR ALL SEASONS: A journalist working for a political party newspaper tells a story that can only add to the "say-something-do-something-else" mood in the country. He recently wrote an article analysing the election situation in the southern part of the Kingdom, only to find himself criticising some of the prominent tribal personalities there. A few days later someone shot one single bullet through the window of his bedroom. Upon investigation, it was found that he had been receiving verbal threats at the newspaper, but that his editors thought they were not serious enough to warrant informing the police about them. The investigation further showed that his case was considered politically motivated and was transferred to the department in charge of such cases. Instead of helping the journalist, however, officers in charge of that department started criticising him for being a member of a political party which does not respect the "sheikhs" of the country and does not recognise its limits in dealing with them. The journalist found it necessary to remind his accusers that the Kingdom has pledged itself to multi-party democracy and that their behaviour directly contradicted this pledge, but to no avail. He was apparently treated to a change of status from that of claimant to that of being accused and was placed under custody for half an hour. He was later released, but his case has gone to all corners of authority in the country. It is now with someone who understands democracy better, we hope.

Nermeen Murad

Polio is declining worldwide — U.S. agency

ATLANTA (R) — Polio is declining worldwide but cases continue to be reported in India, China, Vietnam and parts of the former Soviet Union, a U.S. government health agency said.

In a report on the global effort to wipe out polio, the U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said that 84 per cent of the world's population had been vaccinated, up from 67 per cent in 1988.

The Atlanta-based CDC said in its report that the last known case of polio in the Western hemisphere occurred in September 1991 in Peru.

CDC said other troubling statistics came from the eastern Mediterranean, where polio continues to exist despite relatively high coverage with vaccine. The agency noted that during an outbreak in Oman which affected 118 persons, 51 per cent of those who became ill had received the recommended oral polio vaccine.

Similarly, 17 of the 32 people who contracted the disease in Jordan had been vaccinated.

of

the world total of polio cases came from South East Asia and 91 per cent of those were reported in India.

Polio also appeared to be increasing in parts of the Western Pacific, where China accounted for 98 per cent of the region's total of 2,615 cases in 1991.

Although the total numbers were much lower, the number of reported cases also rose in Europe, to 313 in 1991 from 206 in 1988.

Republiques of the former Soviet Union accounted for 68 per cent of the European total, CDC said.

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Beauty and the beast

By Jean-Claude Elias

All the manufactured products that we use are usually designed to serve a certain purpose. A knife, for instance, is made to cut. But all knives are not created equal, this we know. Depending on what the knife is supposed to cut, who is going to use it and in which conditions, such utensils can take various shapes, sizes, and be made of many different materials.

Modern manufacturing has also made tools not only efficient but as pleasant as possible to use. A quality pen allows you to write pages and pages without fatigue or stress. If it has the right weight, the correct balance, among other features, writing with it becomes effortless.

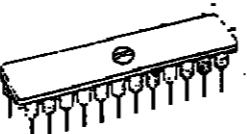
The above described characteristics are known as ergonomics, or human engineering. Their purpose is to coordinate the design of devices, systems and physical conditions with the capacities and requirements of the user. Virtually all recently produced equipment, tools, devices, furniture, cars, common or special objects and of course computers, are made according to well defined ergonomic principles.

Beyond human engineering, but complementing it, defining all systematic sciences, aesthetics remain an essential and integral part of any manufactured product or object. Computers, particularly PCs (personal computers), are certainly no exception.

Precisely because it is meant to be 'personal', a PC must look good. However large the screen or fast the processor, a computer with a badly designed contour will not tempt the buyer. Can you imagine staring at your PC for long working hours at night if it has a repelling aspect or unpleasant colours? Even when you are not using it, how does it blend with your carpet, your TV set?

The external beauty of a PC is the element that most manufacturers tend to ignore or omit. Yet, all users agree that it should not be the case. Even those who do not realise the importance of aesthetics suffer from their

chip talk



absence, one way or another. They are, unconsciously, victims of the "space pollution". Just like a worker in a noisy construction site suffers from noise pollution without taking notice of it, being on the job everyday, taken by the routine.

The Italian industry, well known for its great looking sport cars, fashion clothes and "design" objects, was the first to come up with a PC beautiful to look at: The Olivetti M24, back in 1984. It even went on government stamps and won several awards. Nowadays, with Apple in the lead, most American and European computer manufacturers are keen to design good looking machines. Things are different in the Far East where the PC industry is eager to produce and ship its goods at the lowest price, as fast as possible.

Things will change in the countries where the sun rises, only when PC users will realise the importance of aesthetics and become more demanding with the manufacturers. A quiet and clean environment can improve people's efficiency. Beautiful tools too.

The PC is becoming the 'do-it-all' tool in every office and household. It works as a powerful calculator, a data processing and storage device, a fax machine, a telephone and address directory, a games machine, a typewriter, an encyclopedia, and so on. Shouldn't it be attractive to look at?

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, July 22

8:30 Too Close For Comfort
Sarah finds a job in one of the banks where her friend Jackie works, her boss admires her very much and promises to promote her, but Jackie warns her.

9:10 Quantum Leap

Her Charm

Sam, an FBI agent who is assigned to protect Donna who is the only witness to a crime committed by the big gangster Nick Koskivis who tries to kill her.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week — The Lost Capone
Starring: Adrian Pasdeo, Ally Sheedy

Friday, July 23

8:30 Head Of The Class

Mr. Moore directs Hamlet for the theatre in a style that appeals to the modern audience.

9:10 Reasonable Doubts

The old judge commits suicide. Tissa keeps investigating the case until she finds out why.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Echoes.

After meeting her brother in Rome Angela returns home to Ireland and keeps her brother's secret.

Saturday, July 24

8:30 Super Bloopers "And New Practical Jokes"

9:00 Perspective

9:30 Varieties

10:00 News In English



Omar Sharif stars in the new mini-series, *Memories Of Midnight* Wednesday at 10:20

10:20 Feature Film — Exclusive
exist and how they "eat" each other.

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Series

Monday, July 25

8:30 Golden Girls
The four ladies play a game in a big hotel. They act as investigators looking for a murderer.

9:10 Thirtysomething
10:00 News In English

10:20 Columbo

A Bird In The Hand

Columbo solves the three mysterious murders in and around the mansion of a rich

Carren gets an offer to work as a model in Chicago, her mother objects to the idea and refuses to let her go.

9:10 Documentary — The Trials Of Life

Living Together

The fascinating world of ants and insects. How they co-

businessman.

Tuesday, July 27

8:30 Detectives

The two naive detectives work as consultants with a director who is shooting a film. Someone kills the director.

9:00 Faces And Places

9:30 A Kind Of Magic

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — A Cry In The Night
Starring: Perry King and Carol Clark

Just when Jenny thinks she has found eternal happiness in her second marriage, she is shocked to find out that she is married to a mentally disturbed man, obsessed with the love of his dead mother.

Wednesday, July 28

8:30 Night Court

The court policeman kidnaps a monkey from a laboratory to protect it from the tests. He keeps the monkey at the court house.

9:10 The Story Of Hollywood

Tom From Today's Headlines

The episode shows the influence of politics in the world which affected Hollywood.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Mini-Series — Memories Of Midnight

Starring: Omar Sharif

Catherine wakes up after losing her memory in one of the monasteries near Athens, Greece. Costa, a friend of hers, sends her to Amsterdam to work in one of his companies.

Got a problem? Can't afford a shrink? Try the Advice Ladies

By Larry McShane
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — There's a problem lurking around every corner in Manhattan, but solutions may be available on just one.

Need some tips on your love life? Your job? Your makeup?

Just amble over to the Soho street corner where the Advice Ladies set up shop. The three pals — who spend

the week working in advertising — will listen to your troubles and dole out words of wisdom, all for free.

"The weird thing is not that we exist," said Caroline Johnson, who's spent most Saturdays for the last five years giving curbside advice. "The weird thing is that we have customers."

They began as a lark, but the weekly sessions have become an institution on the corner of Broome and West

Broadway. Regular customers now mix with first-timers. Gawk tourists gather just to watch.

"People will be talking about something very intimate, and suddenly the person behind them will say, 'can you speak up? I can't hear you,'" said Marlowe Minnick.

In sync with the spirit of Soho, the downtown art district, the women wear black lycra and drink white wine while dispensing guidance to

all comers.

They set up shop in a matter of minutes. Folding chairs are arranged around a white tablecloth, a vase holding a faux flower. A sign, written in black and red magic marker, reads "free advice from a panel of experts."

Specialties include getting rid of your jerk. Love and dating (also marriage). Pet discipline. Hair and makeup. Paris. Baby names. Fire pre-

vention. Finding a new jerk.

On Saturday, the chairs were rarely spaced when the group grew to 10. "It's a quiet reveal that she has survived a one-night stand with a weasel," barked from a weasel from oily skin and was shopping for a new hair colour.

Total strangers spill their guts. And they follow the women's advice.

"When a stranger talks to you, there's something about that advice that's very objec-

tive," Minnick said.

Their qualifications? None, not at least on paper. But the years of satisfied customers is evidence of some serious common sense.

"This is not a business," said Amy Aiklon, who rounds out the triad. "It's what we love to do."

The Advice Ladies were born in a downtown diner. The trio helped their waiter solve some problems in his love life. They decided to

offer their counseling service to the world at large.

Their audience may soon expand. Robert de Niro's Tribe Films is planning an Advice Ladies talk show.

The ladies said the No. 1 problem people have is how to meet other people. The runner-up: Lost loves. Each

— even the case of a grossly overweight, unshaven, over-all-wearing dweeb who was looking for love in vain.

"Caroline told him gently, 'your personal hygiene is very important,'" Minnick recalled.

They can recall only one person who felt they steered her wrong, a woman who took their advice to make the first move and ask a man out.

"She did. It didn't go well. Not our fault," said Minnick. "We didn't give bad advice," she said. "We were not responsible for her bad taste."



The meaning of freedom

By E. Yaghli

Man is born free; and everywhere he is in chains.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

How can you enslave men when their mothers have borne them free?

Omar Iba Al Khataeb

What is meant by the concept of freedom? Is it simply the non-existence of interference of external movement of one object upon another? Can we apply this to all things on earth, whether animate or inanimate? Hence, are rocks and stones free and also air and water if we consider that nothing interferes with their movement? Are also birds and animals free in this same sense? Ideally speaking, freedom is not just non-existence of external interference but it is a quality that is peculiar only to man, for it is man and only man who owns the power of reason and is capable of making rational decisions.

Freedom and humanity go hand in hand, for there can be no freedom without humanity. Further, there cannot be freedom if man does not exist, for freedom is the essence of man, his identity and his inalienable God-given right. Then, what is man? Man is the sum of his actions, conduct and moral principles and his awareness of himself.

It is often taken for granted that ruthless dictators and tyrants are free men and that a political prisoner who languishes in the deepest dungeon lacks freedom because the external conditions deny him the liberty that the majority of his fellow humans possess. This is not necessarily so because that prisoner may be an unwavering resolute champion who staunchly believes in an ideal which is beneficial to all mankind. Thus, the prisoner owns internal freedom that his captor obviously lacks, for dictators and tyrants are slaves of their inhuman ideas and ill-bred passions that are counter-productive to the human race. Such desecrators are degenerated spirits; negation opposed to creation.

It is necessary in any society where human beings live

together to have some sort of authority that guides the behaviour of all members and such a concept of functional interaction can be performed through the act of "social contract." A social contract is an agreement between the citizen and the state whereby some rights will be given up in order to procure others, such as the safeguarding of lives and private property. If there is no such social contract between state and individual, then total chaos will result. Freedom does not mean that each individual does anything he wishes at the expense of his society and others for this is a negative concept.

Freedom is neither complete control nor total lack of it, nor is it total acceptance of one's fate, for then this would be slavery. A free action is only one in which man changes the world and himself. It is a task which benefits all. It does not deserve nor is it anti-creation.

Modern man has become slave to machines and technology. Without them he cannot live. Imagine life without television! How could we ever survive? And what would we ever do without a car to take us to a destination? Frequently, man is a slave to social norms whether good or bad. Often decisions are taken with the fear of: "What would my friends or relatives say if I do this?" rather than the better question of: "Is this action right or wrong and will it be beneficial to others?"

There can never be a totally free society without free men but there can be a free man in an unfree society. The freer the society in terms of humanness, the more likely its members are to be people of creative, individual, inquisitive and imaginative minds. The more oppressive the society is, the less chance there is that the majority of its members are ones to better those around them. One priority of freedom is respect for the individual rights of all, as well as the recognition of the dignity of each human being. Absence of freedom then is not only the danger of death for man but man's death. The aim of freedom is a free person in a free society with the goal to improve the conditions of all in order to make the world a better place to live in and where moral justice prevails.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuaib

"How dare he make a spectacle like this! I'll never live it down."

"Don't bother him," laughed one of the nearby spectators. "He's the only one enjoying himself."

★ ★ ★ ★

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

DAGGER: A friend will confer a favour.

CHIMNEY: Good luck, the higher the better.

GATE: An obstacle to success will suddenly disappear.

FALLING: Indicates some misfortunes.

HAMMER: Triumph over difficulties.

JEWELS: To dream of jewellery of any kind is always a bad sign; love troubles or business dangers.

HOSPITAL: Misery, poverty, wounds.

JUG: (Drinking from one) Robust health and whole-some pleasures.

KISS: Beware of treachery and deceit: (Kissing hand of somebody) friendship and good fortune: (Kissing a stranger's hand) a journey.

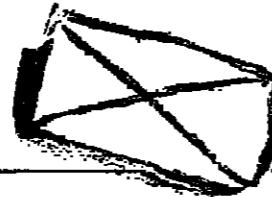
★ ★ ★ ★

PUZZLES

"Arrowords"

EACH arrow points to the beginning of the word answering the appropriately numbered clue. The words extend from arrow to arrow, the final letter of one word becoming the first letter of the next.

Write your solutions clockwise into the "target", and remember, only the twelve letters in the lower diagram are to be used.



The Babelsberg Studios come alive again

By Pierre Albert Lambert

Will a European Hollywood see the light of day at the gates of Berlin, in the former studios which were the cradle of expressionist cinema? French and German investors are betting on it.

PARIS — A few months before she died, in 1992, Marlene Dietrich launched a pathetic appeal to her fellow citizens: "Save the Babelsberg Studios from ruin!". The actress's wish is to be fulfilled. This mythical place, where so many chapters of the history of cinema were written, is going to come alive again, thanks to a French initiative.

For the sum of 500 million francs, Compagnie Immobilière Phoenix (CIP), a subsidiary of Compagnie Générale des Eaux, has bought the legend-making studios, where Marlene and Greta Garbo made their debuts.

Sternberg shot the *Blue Angel* there and Fritz Lang made *Metropolis* and *Doctor Mabuse*. It was in Babelsberg that the first experimental sound film was made in 1926.

Since 1912, the former temple of expressionism covers 461,000m², half an hour away from the German capital. There are cardboard villages, a dozen dilapidated studios, 2,000m² of sets, 137 buildings and sheds which still contain 150,000 costumes, 2,000 wigs, artificial beards, etc.

In Babelsberg's golden age, up to 2,400 people worked there. There were actors, directors, writers, stage

hands, scenery designers, wardrobe mistresses, etc., a real hive of activity. During the war years, it was in the hands of the UFA company and served as the centre for Nazi propaganda. Visitors are shown the office from which Goebbels exerted his dictatorship over the media.

In order to bring Babelsberg back to life, an ambitious project, in two stages, has been created:

— To build a European Hollywood which would be, for the 7th Art, what the Airbus is for the aeronautics industry.

— To create a prestigious town all around it, with residential areas, luxury hotels, an international conference centre, television stations, the biggest cinema school in Europe, etc. It would be a kind of Berlin-style Neuilly and a media city unique in the world.

"New Babelsberg will only produce quality works", assures Schindorff, who is to film *Le Bateau Ivre* there with famous actors to play the parts of Rimbaud and Verlaine. Berlin's location on the hinge between East and West and the cultural ferment that has been going on there

since the fall of the Wall, are sure assets for him.

People in Germany are protesting against selling-off the heritage and the speculative nature of the Babelsberg operation. For those against it, the revival of the studios, which, in their opinion, poses a lot of problems, in fact masks a widespread real-estate scoop.

The heads of the CIP protest. After all, their parent company, the CGE, is a big operator in audiovisual and already runs the Paris film studios in Boulogne-Billancourt. It is also the majority shareholder in the capital of the Union Générale Cinématographique (UGC) and the television channel, Canal.

They promise that the major part of the profits coming from the real estate operation will be used for the new Cinema City. After all, Hollywood got out of the slump by selling off some land in Beverly Hills.

The German cinecitta, which came out of the sombre years of Nazism and of



It was in Berlin's Babelsberg Studios that J. Von Sternberg produced his 1930 masterpiece *The Blue Angel* which immortalised Marlene Dietrich.

European cinema, which is today dominated for 90 per cent by the Americans, will once again rank first at home. Thanks to the revival of Babelsberg — L'Actualité En France.

Buarque is back — this time as one of Brazil's 'beaten generation'

By Tony Smith

The Associated Press

LISBON — If any Brazilian could be expected to pass a biting, melodious judgment on the corruption and scandal that wracks his country, it would be Chico Buarque De Hollanda.

But the sad, lilting "sambas tristes" and more upbeat pop songs of the singer-songwriter's latest stage show steer clear of politics, at least that aspect of politics.

During the 1960s and '70s, Buarque's songs lashed Bra-

zil's military dictatorship, often confounding censors with clever lyrics passed off as love ballads or sambas, and giving hope to millions who dreamed of democratic freedoms.

The singer himself spent years in exile in Italy. Now he's back home, but has not toured Brazil since 1975.

"In the 1970s, I wanted to overthrow the government," Buarque told reporters before opening his new tour recently in Lisbon. "Today I'm not interested in over-

throwing anybody."

Critics argue there's still much to malign in Brazil — and they say Buarque has failed to do so by singing about love, dancing and soccer (one of his favourite pastimes).

Brazil's generals loosened their grip in 1985, when military-approved poet-politician Jose Sarney became civilian president. After a lackluster four-year tenure plagued by economic chaos and alleged nepotism, Mr. Sarney handed over the reins to Fernando Collor de Mello.

After promising start,

Mr. Collor was soon embroiled in even deeper scandals and was impeached last year. His deputy, Itamar Franco, took over as president.

Buarque's latest songs, which he wrote while recovering in bed from torn ligaments playing soccer, do not tackle such problems.

"There's no shortage of freedom in Brazil today," he explained. "Today the problem is another one... Whoever lives in misery has absolutely no freedoms,

rights or anything."

Countless Brazilians live in abject poverty, while a small minority enjoy the country's riches.

One song in Buarque's new repertoire is "Pivete" (Street Kid), an old melody with new lyrics that tell of the plight of Brazil's seven million-plus street children who beg or rob to survive and are increasingly the targets of violent, organised crime.

Buarque comes from a literary, liberal family. His father was a distinguished historian, and his uncle Aurelio compiled what effectively became Brazil's official dic-

tionary.

But now back in the music scene, Buarque admitted to feeling "a certain tiredness" resulting from being a member of what he called Brazilian music's "beaten generation" — singers with a message such as Caetano Veloso.

"We spent 20 years demanding democracy," he said. "Luckily today the political role of the artist carries much less weight than, say, in the 1970s... Today, showbiz has been reduced to pure showbiz."

Close encounter with beauty

An interview with supermodel Tricia Helfer

By Anthony S. Vanger

NEW YORK — Have the angels of the silver screen disappeared for good? Those goddesses of glamour, perfect in every way, sultry, mysterious, and above all, completely out of reach of the common man? Hayworth, Kelly, Monroe, to name a few, were women who had more than beauty: They were emblems of a generation. They defined the ideal, and later, with the advent of fashion photography, they went on to become an idealised version of perfection.

No wrinkles, not an ounce of unwanted fat, no curve that failed to stir the mind's eye with tortuous anticipation. Of course, the public knew that Marilyn spent four to five hours making herself up before the impatient director managed to call out "Action!" But that was beside the point. Reality was not in demand. Women got enough of that every day in the mirror. They wanted fantasy. Pure, story-book fantasy, and these beauties would become the players of their dreams. Take Grace Kelly for example. She took the fantasy to its limits: She married Prince Rainier of Monaco. A prince no less! The fairy tale became a reality. Prince charming, Snow White, Cinderella relinquished their fictional status. It actually happened! Right there for all the world to see and we could never get enough of it.

Today however Hollywood offers us Sharon Stone wielding an ice pick. It gives use Kim Basinger cavorting with Mickey Rourke in a dingy, rain-filled stairwell, and even in what many considered to be one of the last few years' most romantic movies, *When Harry Met Sally*, Meg Ryan faked an orgasm in the middle of a crowded diner. Romantic? Glamorous? Certainly not.

Enter the Supermodel. We have seen them everywhere, from Rome to Paris, London to New York. They are immaculate in whatever they do (or do not) wear. Ten years ago they were a mere collection of faces selling cosmetics, but now they have become household names — Cindy Crawford, considered by many to be the best of the crop, Christy Turlington, Naomi Campbell, Christie Brinkley, Linda Evangelista, Tatjana Patitz, Claudia Schiffer, Paulina Porizkova — the list is ever-growing. They have come a long way from simply being props upon which to drap the season's latest offerings. They are what the Hayworths and the Monroes used to be: Pure glamour, unbridled by reality, more perfect than perfection. They have filled a gap in popular culture that had been vacant for over a decade. Now it is not the movie stars who capture the fairy-tale imaginations of the public, but these models. Models? No, Supermodels. Super, as in "of the highest rank and extraordinary."

One such woman is Tricia Helfer of Ford Models, Inc. This 5' 10" stunning Canadian beauty was the winner of the 1992 Supermodel of the World contest in Hollywood. In true story-book fashion, she was born and raised in a farm in Donald, Alberta, Canada, a town with a population of 200, until one day she was discovered waiting in a movie line by a Ford model agency scout. What happened next is the stuff of many a teenager's dreams. She won a \$250,000 contract with Ford in addition to a necklace and earring set worth \$25,000. She has strutted her incredible 35-24-36 frame on the runways of Paris, Milan and New York and is currently featured in the new campaigns for Chanel and Versace fashion houses. In August she will grace the cover of *Elle* magazine in America. She rents an apartment in Paris and is presently working for Harper's Bazaar with one

of the world's top photographers, Patrick Demarchelier. And all this at the tender age of 19.

I managed to catch up with her in between photo sessions at the offices of Eileen Ford. As I waited for her to arrive, I began to worry about what to ask this newest star of the fashion world. Furthermore, would I be able to speak or would her beauty reduce me to a blithering wreck? After all, my relationship with Supermodels up until this point had been strictly two-dimensional: They would stare out at me in silent beauty, larger than life, beckoning, but also strangely distant, while I, mere pedestrian and commuter would stare back, dumb with yearning. But here I could actually address Beauty and what's more, Beauty answered back.

I had to ask her if she was what she appeared to be, or was she something else. As it turned out, the answer lay in what Eileen Ford, fairy godmother and matriarch of the modelling world, calls "the X factor."

Question: Do you enjoy being in front of the camera?

Answer: "In the beginning, it's really difficult, because you don't know what you look like. So it's difficult to relax. Now I have a better idea of what I can and cannot do with my face. I know what looks good and what doesn't and I can enjoy myself to a certain point. But it is work."

Q: What were the problems you faced in getting used to the camera?

A: (laughing) "I have a problem with my lip. I actually have a nickname. They call me 'Elvis,' because in the beginning I had no idea what I was doing and when I got nervous — and believe me when you're up there on a runway in front of all these people it's pretty nerve-wracking — well, anyway, my top lip would curl up on one side. So I had to learn to control it."

Q: How were you able to control a natural tick?

A: "You just try and concentrate and before a shoot I do face exercises. It was funny, because I went to Milan a couple of months before the Supermodel contest. The whole two weeks, nothing happened. The last night, 14 finalists were named and it started moving. Then it came to eight finalists, and it started moving even more and by the time I won, it was just like, if you see all my pictures from Supermodel, they were all ruined because of this lip that is stuck way over my cheek!"

Q: So now that you have changed that part of your personality, is there a constant demand for you to change that or? Is there any room for yourself to come out, or maybe that is not what is required?

A: "I think that's what a lot of the problem is with being a model. You can work with the way you deal with people, and the way you move in front of the camera, but after a while you can only be yourself. I mean, I am often treated like an object. They pull at this and push at that, tugging here, or if your nose doesn't look right, and you feel like pushing them off and saying, 'Look, there's a person inside here. Stop it!'"

Q: How is it when you go back home?

A: "Back home, since this Supermodel contest it's hilarious. I'm from such a small town that I'm like a star there. I go out and I sign autographs. Actually I went home at Easter and when we went out to a club, they had

bodyguards around me all night. Another time we walked into a store and everyone goes, 'Ohhh! My family thinks that it's always like that for me, but it's not.'

Not yet anyway...

A: (she laughs) "We'll see."

Q: Is Christy Turlington someone you look up to? Is she the perfect image of a model to you?

A: "I don't have any perfect image of what a model should be. I'm not one to idolise people. I do think though, aside from the fact that her face is perfect, she is classic. It doesn't seem like she's striving for attention. I really dislike people who are always putting on an air and being fake, and when I work with her she's always been really nice."

Q: Is the competition fierce?

A: "Yes, it's competitive... I really like Karen Malder. I was working with her last night and there's others, but Christy is the nicest and the most classic. She's the most beautiful to me."

Q: Why do you think models have become so famous in the last ten years or so?

A: "I really don't know. I started after the models took over from the film stars, so I wasn't there when it changed. But I think that part of it is that people have come to realise that the women at the top aren't just faces. They're business women — they have to be to get up there. And I think they admire that."

Q: As well as the beauty...

A: "Yes, the beauty is always first, but again, there's the personality that comes through."

Q: Is there anything you wouldn't do on camera?

A: "It depends on the photographer. I mean, if it's a well-known photographer, then you'll trust him more because he won't put out anything that makes him look bad. I've done topless, and it didn't bother me."

Q: Would you ever pose for Playboy magazine?

A: "No, I wouldn't do it... (laughing) I don't have the body to do Playboy. I'm not against nude pictures. I don't like tacky nudes, I like beautiful nude pictures. I dislike where the woman is sitting there like a piece of meat. But if she's covered up, with something across her like this, sensual, but not just sex, then I think it's very sexy."

Q: What do you wear when you go out?

A: "It depends. I mean, I don't go out that much. I've never been to any clubs in Paris or New York. I swear it's true! But if I go out for dinner with friends, I like to wear something sexy."

Q: Do you have to work hard to keep yourself in shape?

A: "I do. I know some girls don't, but I care about what I eat and I like to be professional. I mean, if you have a big job the next day, you don't go out and party the night before. Your work is your face, and if you're tired it just doesn't have the glow it needs, or you may have big bags under your eyes. You have to make sure your nails are perfect. It's hard work, people don't realise, but it's a full-time job."

Q: What are the down-sides about being a model?

A: "Just that everyone wants to be around all the time..."



Being a supermodel requires hard work and dedication, according to Tricia Helfer

It's kind of a pain. And then there's the long-lost relatives syndrome, you know: They knew me five years ago and now they want to be my best friends, but I don't know what to say to them."

Q: And the up-sides?

A: "The money. I mean, there's no way that I could be making the kind of money that I'm making now back home. I'm 19, so hopefully I can start saving something and when it's time to get out, I'll be ready. But right now, that's a long way off. Maybe in a couple of years I'll really get sick of modelling, but I can't say yet. I've just started in this business — a year, a year and a half — and I'm gonna work as hard as I can to make it work."

With that she left, back to Eileen Ford's town-house for some well-earned sleep. The next week she would be off to Paris for more photo shoots, then back to New York for the collections. The next time I saw her, I knew it would be like before. She, staring out at me in silent beauty, larger than life, beckoning, but also strangely distant, while I, mere pedestrian and commuter would stare back, dumb with yearning. But this time I would understand the secret, or what Eileen Ford calls "the X factor." Cindy Crawford has it, so does Christy Turlington. And now Tricia Helfer. Beauty? Yes, unparalleled. But there is something else which lies deeper than the epidermis. It is in their eyes and the way they move, in their very being. They have a personality that complements the world they come into contact with. People want to be around them. Not just because they look good, but because they make you feel good. And like champagne, they make everything seem that little bit more special — World News Link.

Luc Montagnier launches all-out war against AIDS

By Jean-Marc Michel

With the catastrophic development of AIDS and man's powerlessness against it, ten years after discovering the virus, Luc Montagnier has set up a world foundation aimed at waging all-out war against the terrible disease.

PARIS — AIDS: "This is just the beginning. The worst is yet to come," warned a recent headline in a French magazine. Everybody agrees on this matter and not a day goes by without the subject's coming up.

It is true that AIDS is everywhere. The famous French film festival, called "La Nuit Des Césars," at which the best actors and the best films of the year are given awards, has gone into mourning. It was dedicated to Cyril Collard, a 35 year-old prodigy film-maker who died from AIDS two days before the prize-giving ceremony.

It was on television in front of thousands of people and it is an understatement to say that public opinion is becoming

ing somewhat astounded and panicking faced with the advance of the epidemic which appears unavoidable. More and more television programmes, involving the public, and news reports show what is happening in France and abroad, in the USA, in Africa and in Asia, how to protect oneself, the action of the "AIDES" association for those who are already infected and the validity of HIV tests.

So, ten years after the discovery, in 1983, of the fearful HIV virus, responsible for this deadly disease, nothing has been achieved. No progress has been made. On the contrary, HIV-virus carriers who did not actually have AIDS and who, until 1983, were thought to be spared



Prof. Luc Montagnier

by the disease, have now turned out to be irrevocably condemned in the shorter or longer term.

Luc Montagnier, who had discovered the virus, feels very badly about the situation of the powerlessness of science against the very rapid development of the scourge, which appears limitless. He

force and forestall AIDS on all continents, bringing the nations of the South into the common effort."

Key questions

This needs very considerable financial means. At a pinch, a physicist can make do with a blackboard and, like Einstein, write out equations until he reaches the brilliant $E=mc^2$. But biologists have to grapple with matter, micro-matter, and that requires extremely costly equipment and instruments.

The first objective of the "World Foundation for Research and the Prevention of AIDS" known as the "Montagnier Foundation," is to gather these huge and indispensable financial means.

Placed under the auspices of UNESCO, it hopes to benefit

from

from firm support, gather funds and become a sort of "permanent telethon" just like the "telethon against muscular dystrophy" which raised funds enabling a tremendous leap forward to be made recently in genetics.

"Ten years after the virus has been isolated, we still have nothing serious to offer patients. We have to be faster and stronger. We have to create a motivated strike

lymphocytes, could bring about the death of the others. If the phenomena of the amplification of the effect of the virus were understood, it might be possible to inhibit it.

Luc Montagnier does not content himself with fundamental research. He also thinks of the patients who are infected every day. He would like his foundation to be able to at least offer them some relief, as it is not able to cure them. He practises cell therapy which consists in taking some lymphocytes from HIV-positive patients and injecting huge doses of these immunity cells back into the person at the earliest signs of the disease's becoming active.

At any rate, Professor Montagnier has decided to fight on to the end. "I will only stop when I have achieved my objective. I have no choice. Either I wait for retirement, slowly exploring the areas that interest me with the means that I am offered, or I plunge into battle. The fight against this worldwide scourge can no longer wait." He concludes: "I will not rest until the day when I can say to a patient 'We shall pull you through' — L'Actualité En France.

U.S. to increase research on what children eat

By Jim Fuller

WASHINGTON — The head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) says more research is needed on children's food consumption to determine any health threats posed by pesticides in their diets.

EPA Administrator Carol Browner said the agency will do more to analyse the possible risks to children from pesticide residues found in foods that children eat and expanding food consumption surveys to

find out what children eat.

Ms. Browner's remarks followed the release of a report by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) that found no credible evidence that pesticide residues in the diets of children are responsible for disease.

The academy recommended, however, more research to determine the dangers of pesticides, and more studies to find out children's degree of exposure to pesticides. The report said that limited knowledge about

what children eat makes it difficult to know how much pesticide they consume.

"I want to announce today that we will take immediate steps to put these recommendations into action," Ms. Browner said. "We'll look at what people eat, what residue remains on that food, and what are the risks, if any."

She said EPA will work closely with the pesticide data programme at the Department of Agriculture to examine the residues found on foods that children eat. The Agriculture Department is

already collecting residue data for apples, grapes, peaches, bananas, oranges and potatoes, which are among the crops that infants and children eat in large quantities.

"But we need to do more," Ms. Browner said. "In different regions of the country, you'll find different pesticide residues on the same fruits and vegetables. We need to go out and take samples from fields, orchards and citrus groves in many different parts of the country."

Ms. Browner also said that EPA, working with the Food and Drug Administration and the Agriculture Department, will improve the food consumption survey to find out what children eat.

"I want to make sure we pay attention to sub-populations — examine diet by age, by region, by income level and ethnic group," she said. "Obviously my five-year-old eats a diet different from mine. Different groups eat different amounts of beans, meat and dairy products."

Ms. Browner said her agency will also do more to analyse the possible risks of pesticides. She said EPA already screens for 15 different health risks, ranging

from the effects of pesticide exposure on the fetus in the womb to a variety of acute effects such as respiratory problems and eye irritation.

She said that the NAS study also recommends looking for other possible problems, including the effects of pesticides on the body's hormones, on the nervous system, such as tremors or paralysis, and possible suppression of the body's immune system that would make people more susceptible to illness.

"We already use a neurotoxicity test on some pesticides," Ms. Browner said. "We'll expand this. And we've begun to develop a test for immunotoxicity and for

hormonal problems."

Joseph Hotchkiss, professor of food science at Cornell University and a reviewer of the NAS report, said that the federal government and scientists need to devote more time to examining residues in products as they are consumed by children, not just in the fields.

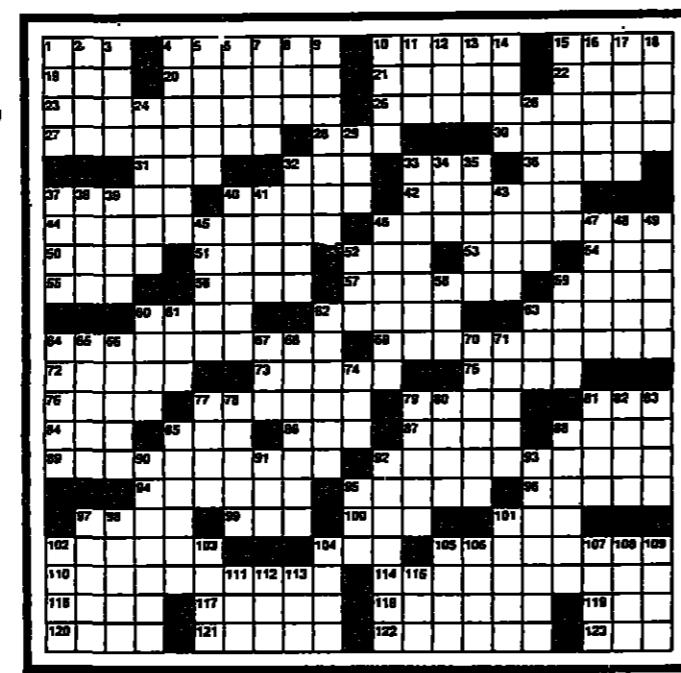
Prof. Hotchkiss pointed out that children eat large amounts of processed fruits and vegetables, and that in a limited number of cases, processing can increase pesticide content, particularly in the separation of crude oils or in dehydration. Subsequent processing, however, can remove these residues. Nonetheless, "we need to

know more about what happens to pesticides in foods as they are altered," Prof. Hotchkiss said.

"We focus almost all our attention on enforcing (pesticide) tolerances," he added. "But we also need to know, for instance, how much of apple products a three-year-old eats."

However, Prof. Hotchkiss said that, in his opinion, improper nutrition is far more detrimental to the health of youngsters than pesticides. As an example, he referred to the "large quantities" of "high-fat foods" being gobbed down" by students in high school cafeterias across the nation — USIA.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD



Economy

Jobs outlook seen bleak in OECD region

PARIS (Agencies) — Over 50 million people — roughly as many as the populations of Britain, Turkey or Thailand — could be affected by open and disguised unemployment in Western industrial nations and Japan by next year, an OECD study indicated Tuesday.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said the real extent of labour market slack linked to a three-year economic slowdown in the West was not fully captured by "measured" unemployment, projected to reach 36 million in the OECD area by early next year.

Highlighting the need for government policies to come to grips with worsening employment trends — a key issue at the Tokyo summit of the Group of Seven industrial powers earlier this month — the OECD said jobless rates tended to underestimate the gravity of the situation.

Most OECD countries were also faced with "substantial disguised unemployment," represented by "discouraged" workers and people involuntarily employed in part-time jobs, it said in its annual report on the employment outlook.

The report said that in 1991, these two categories, in which women outnumbered men, represented over 13 million people,

equal to just under half the jobless total in 18 out of the 24 OECD countries, including the United States and Japan.

Discouraged workers are persons who stay out of the labour market, or youth who do not enter it, deterred by poor job prospects, according to the report.

The OECD study, which described the overall short-term outlook for jobs as bleak, said the OECD unemployment rate could touch 8.75 per cent by year-end, matching the previous post-war high recorded in 1983, and marking a steep rise to 36 million jobless from 24.5 million in 1990.

Confirming projections released earlier this month, the report said Europe's jobless rate could touch 12 per cent next year with 23 million out of work.

It said the main challenge facing governments, especially in continental Europe, was to prevent the sharp rise in jobless figures from "ratcheting up into a higher level of unemployment that cannot be reversed quickly once recovery comes."

Secondly, they would need to speed up the upgrading of knowledge and skill levels in order to meet the challenges of technological change and growing competition from non-OECD countries.

The report also noted that earnings rose higher for university graduates in the 1980s than for

part-time workers, with a 4.0 per cent underemployment rate, the report said.

Overall, discouraged workers accounted for 1.1 per cent of the labour force of the 18 countries concerned, which had an underemployment rate of 2.4 per cent.

The numbers of discouraged workers and those forced to accept part-time jobs for lack of any better, tend to rise in a downturn, it said, implying that the total could be markedly higher now than in 1991.

Data in the report showed that countries which had low jobless rates in 1991, including Japan and the Nordic nations, would have significantly higher rates if discouraged workers were included into the labour force.

Japan, which had a jobless rate of 2.1 per cent, had 1.23 million discouraged workers or 1.9 per cent of the labour force, meaning a gross rate of 3.9 per cent.

It also had 770,000 involuntary part-time workers, which translated into an "underemployment rate" of 1.2 per cent, the OECD said.

Japan and the United States accounted for nearly two-thirds of the 3.7 million discouraged workers recorded in the OECD in 1991, and the United States for half the nine million involuntary

and structural reforms to make labour and product markets more flexible, the report said.

It reaffirmed the need for a shift of resources from passive income support for the unemployed to "active" measures to mobilise labour supply, develop job-related skills and promote labour market efficiency. Social and labour market policies must reinforce one another, and education and training must be geared to the needs of working life, the report said.

The report recommended that governments help the long-term unemployed keep in contact with the job market, ease employers' hiring and firing costs, and facilitate temporary jobs.

Conventional state programmes to cut unemployment through general retraining work less well than those targeting a specific group — such as mothers returning to the workforce, the report said.

The longer workers spend in one job, the more on-the-job training they receive — making it easier to find an employer, Japanese workers, who average 11 years in the same job, received more training than Americans, with seven years.

The report also noted that earnings rose higher for university graduates in the 1980s than for

lesser educated workers, especially in the United States and Britain.

The OECD explained the inequality by the great influx of young people into the labour market in the 1980s, pushing down wages, and increased demand for the university degrees in most occupations.

"There is a long-term unemployment trap, a trap reflecting the hiring preferences of employers or a complete collapse of motivation and work skills on the part of the unemployed person himself," OECD economist John Martin told a news conference.

In a wide-ranging analysis, the OECD said long-term employment tended to be linked to tough labour laws, which discourage companies from hiring staff, and good unemployment benefits, which discourage people from

seeking work.

But it found no easy solutions for the long-term unemployed — who make up some 50 per cent of total unemployment in Europe. It called for retraining, and a shift to highly skilled, high value-added, high-wage jobs.

In a term unemployed, the OECD said that they tend to be between 25 and 44 years old, and poorly educated. About 55 per cent are likely to be unemployed one year later. Health problems are greater, the risk of suicide has been found to be up to 20 times higher and mortality up to 50 per cent higher than for employed people.

They are also so marginalised as to be excluded from the usual self-correcting mechanism whereby higher unemployment forces down wages, leading to the creation of more jobs.

Russian oil exports give OPEC another headache

MOSCOW (R) — World oil markets, where alarm bells are ringing among producers over a threatened glut, may have to soak up increased supplies from Russia this year, senior Russian government and oil industry officials said.

"We have great optimism about oil output. There are very many signs of stabilisation... average daily output in the first half of the year was 973,000 tonnes (7.1 million b/d)," Mr. Fomin said.

Officials expect Russian oil output of 340-350 million tonnes (6.8-7.0 million b/d) this year, down around 15 per cent from 1992 levels.

Vagit Alekperov, president of Russia's independent Lukoil Company, said higher first half exports were due mainly to reduced deliveries to other former Soviet republics.

These fell by more than 40 per cent to 26 million tonnes (1.04 million b/d) in January-June.

"It is possible to maintain these levels (for exports outside the former Soviet Union) because output is stabilising," he said during a break at an energy sector conference in parliament this week.

Lukoil, a newly created vertically integrated company, accounts for 19 per cent of output and 12-13 per cent of exports.

Mr. Fomin said supplies to the other republics would rise if they met their payment obligations to Russia. "The governments, Supreme Soviets (parliaments) and central banks of the independent states must settle these questions," he said.

Controversial owners of Harrods selling other 59 department stores

LONDON (AP) — The Egyptian brothers who staged the controversial buyout of British retailing empire — including luxurious Harrods Department Stores — said Tuesday they will sell the other stores in a public stock offering.

Mohammad Al Fayed, who were accused in a government report of lying about their background and finances during the billion-dollar acquisition of House of Fraser (HOF) PLC, are giving up control in preparation for next year's sale.

The new publicly held company will be one of Britain's biggest retailing businesses, with 59 department stores, including Dickins and Jones, D.H. Evans and Arnotts and annual sales of £700 million (\$1.05 billion).

The chain stretches throughout England, Scotland and Wales.

But Harrods, a favourite London shopping place of the royal family and thousands of tourists,

as well as a bomb target of the Irish Republican Army, will remain under control of the Fayed.

Mohammad Al Fayed has been quoted as saying "only God" would take the famous department store from him.

The Al Fayed insisted they were not being pressured to erase their debt, noting House of Fraser had been consistently profitable and they have been paying their bills.

The current trading performance of HOF stores is extremely encouraging, but we believe the full potential of the company will be realised most swiftly and most effectively if it returns to its former status of an independent, publicly held company," said Ali Al Fayed, who is stepping down as chairman.

He will be replaced by Brian McGowan, who recently said he would quit as chief executive of Lonrho PLC, a top British industrial company.

The Al Fayed are selling 100

per cent of their stake in House of Fraser and want to "make sure the company is running wholly independently" with Mr. McGowan in charge by immediately getting out of the day-to-day operations, a spokesman said.

The take-over of House of Fraser by the Al Fayed brothers stirred sensational allegations of trickery and deceit, although the government decided not to prosecute anyone.

Lonrho PLC, a British conglomerate run by chief executive Roland "Tiny" Rowland, a rival bidder for Harrods, has filed a lawsuit claiming the Al Fayed obtained control of House of Fraser through "wrongful interference."

Paul Spicer, a Lonrho director, declined in a telephone interview Tuesday to spell out the damage Lonrho hopes to get in a trial scheduled for next year or to say how the stock offering could affect the lawsuit.

He will be replaced by Brian McGowan, who recently said he would quit as chief executive of Williams Holdings PLC, a top British industrial company.

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Israeli state firms report \$78m loss

TEL AVIV (R) — Defence industry losses plunged Israeli state-owned companies into a 220 million shekel (\$78.57 million) loss in 1992, the head of the government Companies Authority said Tuesday.

Yossi Nitizani said state-owned corporations excluding defence and agricultural losses showed a profit of 801 million shekels (\$286 million) last year.

But defence industry losses of one billion shekels (\$364.6 million) — with a 133 million shekel

war world defence cuts.

Total income for all companies in 1992 was 29.3 billion shekels (\$10.46 billion) compared to 27.5 billion shekels (\$9.8 billion) in 1991.

Mr. Nitizani, who oversees the slow privatisation of 170 state firms, said the poor defence industry showed came as no surprise.

"We are going through structural changes in the market, in everything connected with defence industries," he said.

State defence firms — Israel Military Industries (IMI) and Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) have been hard hit by post-cold

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Andy Capp



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Mutt'n'Jeff



Bosnian Muslims claim victory over Serb forces at Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Muslim forces claimed a victory over Serbs attacking the mountain that towers over the capital Sarajevo, Muslim-controlled radio reported Wednesday.

It said the Muslim-led Bosnian government forces retook the Golo Brod part of Mount Igman, a long-held stronghold of the government forces. Tuesday evening and pushed rebel Serbs back towards their valley base of Hadzici.

The Serbs said Tuesday they had taken the steep southwest slope of the mountain, killing nine Muslim soldiers and bringing the rebels closer to taking control of the besieged capital.

The Muslim radio said dozens of Serbs were killed in the fighting. It did not mention Muslim casualties.

Heavy artillery could be heard constantly overnight in the Mount Igman area, southwest of Sarajevo, until daybreak on Wednesday when the noise subsided.

Hours earlier, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic warned U.N. leaders that rebel Serbs were planning an all-out attack on Sarajevo and he urged the United Nations to intervene.

Meanwhile, the commander of the Bosnian Serb army Wednesday said his troops would soon cut off Muslim forces in the battle for the strategic mountain overlooking Sarajevo.

General Ratko Mladic said his soldiers had already "liberated" several villages in the mountains southwest of the Bosnian capital and had pushed their front-line forward by up to 30 kilometres.

Tajik rebels attack border post

MOSCOW (R) — Rebels operating from Afghanistan shelled a border post in Tajikistan overnight, injuring at least two Russian soldiers, the commander of Russian troops in the former Soviet republic said Wednesday.

Anatoly Chechulin told local journalists that the rebels, who fled to Afghanistan last year after being defeated in a civil war, had shelled the southern 10th border post.

The two injured men were serving with the Russian 201st Motorised Infantry Division, which has been pressed into action to help border guards and Tajik troops deal with the rebels.

Moscow reacted swiftly after a major rebel attack last week which killed 25 Border Guards, sending in troops reinforcements to the Central Asian republic and setting up a new command structure to help counter the attacks.

Russia's ITAR-TASS News Agency reported serious clashes in the area and said the situation at a string of border posts along the mountainous frontier was "extremely serious."

Lieutenant-Colonel Vasily Matyuk, Border Guard commander in Tajikistan's southern Moshkovsky District, told TASS that most border garrisons only had two-thirds of the men they needed.

He did not exclude the possibility that the rebels, whom he said were armed with a large amount of armoured vehicles and modern foreign weapons, would soon launch a major attack across the border.

A top aide to Russia's security minister said Tuesday that the Border Guards should be allowed to launch raids into Afghan territory to prevent further attacks.

Tajik authorities say last week's raid was part of a general build-up by Islamic opposition for a major assault to regain power after its defeat last year.

Russian border troops commanders said Wednesday that since the start of the year the rebels had launched more than 100 attacks on border posts.

Troops had killed 400 people trying to cross the border and captured 300 more, for a loss of 31 Guards killed and 41 wounded.

The harsh comments by Vladimir Bondarenko, the chief of staff of Russia's Security Ministry, marked an escalation for Russia's biggest military action in the region since the 1979-80 Afghan War.

However, Foreign Minister spokesman Boris Kustovsky later declined to assert such a right and said: "One has to wait and see how things develop."

Russia and other former Soviet republics, including neighbouring Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, are helping Tajikistan's pro-Communist regime guard its border with Afghanistan.

"I hope that today, or tomorrow we will have cut off their forces completely, both on Mount Bjelashnica and on Mount Igman," Gen. Mladic said in a front-line interview with Reuters Television.

On the mountain heights, Mladic's men gave the three-fingered Serb salute while houses in the valley below burned.

"Things are moving very well, according to plan, and will be even better," Gen. Mladic said. "The most important thing is that there are no losses."

Gen. Mladic issued a warning to the Muslim defenders of Sarajevo, whose forces are entrenched on Igman.

"Tell them to take good care of the few Serbs that remain (in Sarajevo), so that they survive. The path of Allah is controlled by my army," Gen. Mladic said.

The UN has authorised air strikes to protect six Bosnian Muslim enclaves, including Sarajevo, and NATO has said it would be ready for the task by this Thursday.

The United States, while saying it was alarmed by the deteriorating situation in Sarajevo, Tuesday said it planned no new initiative to stop the fighting.

Croatian radio reported Wednesday that dozens of people were killed and wounded in the latest central Bosnian clash between the U.N.-designated safe area of Gorazde Tuesday, killing three people and wounding seven, Bosnian radio said.

It said Croats units regained control over some villages in the Kresica district and the villages of Bakovici and Gajkovic near Fojnica, where U.N. peacekeepers earlier this week discovered

Bosnian civilians.

The Bosnian Serbs and Croats have proposed carving Bosnia into three ethnic regions — a solution the Muslim-led government had vehemently opposed, although Mr. Izetbegovic this week conceded this may be the only way to end the fighting.

Exerting further pressure on Mr. Izetbegovic, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, whose forces have seized 70 per cent of the country, said the Muslims insist on waging war, "blind in their belief that the world will intervene on their behalf."

"The Serbs are not at war with the world but with the Muslims," he told Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) Tuesday.

He warned the Muslims they were in a hopeless position and risked being swallowed in a two-way Serb-Croat division of Bosnia if they continue the war.

Meanwhile, fighting raged in central Bosnia, where Muslim positions in Maglaj and Tuzla were under attack.

Serbs also hammered parts of the U.N.-designated safe area of Gorazde Tuesday, killing three people and wounding seven, Bosnian radio said.

The mediators told Mr. Izetbegovic, Serb leader Karadzic and Croat leader Mate Boban they would be telephoning them Wednesday for their reply and to fix a time for the meeting.

Spokesman John Mills, giving the letter to reporters, said the mediators had not yet received those replies.

Two more children have died in the mental institution, U.N. officials said Wednesday.

230 emaciated mental patients abandoned by hospital staff fleeing the fighting.

In Geneva, international mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg said Wednesday they had called the leaders of Bosnia's three warring factions to a new — and officially final — round of peace negotiations.

In a letter sent Tuesday to president Izetbegovic and to the leaders of Bosnia's Serbs and Croats, the mediators said the Bosnian conflict had reached a level that "makes us both shudder for the future of your country."

"We therefore invite you to come to Geneva this weekend for negotiations, which we intend should sit in continuous session until a settlement is reached," they said. The letter was released to the media Wednesday.

According to the letter, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and President Momir Bulatovic of Montenegro had all expressed a "readiness" to come to Geneva. Mr. Tudjman and Mr. Milosevic are seen as key players in the Balkan conflict.

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Trailers at a mobile home park are submerged in the muddy waters of the flooding Missouri River near St. Charles, Missouri (AFP photo)

New flood misery hits St. Louis

ST. LOUIS (R) — A fresh thunderstorm hit St. Louis Tuesday night, pouring more water into swollen rivers and streams, after 160 kilometres to the south.

In St. Charles, north of St. Louis, where a vast lake has formed at the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri, officials could only wait anxiously.

"Right now we're all just kind of watching the levels. Most of the sandbagging has stopped because there's not much more that can break," said Petra Hawes of the St. Charles County Emergency Management Agency.

Valleys and farmland have been under water for nearly a month and a half in nine heavily-laden states, killing as many as 31 people, covering 16,000 square miles (41,440 sq km) of fields and forcing at least 30,000 people to leave their homes.

Overall damage is estimated at \$10 billion.

In Washington, a House of Representatives committee approved \$3 billion in emergency aid for the flood zone Tuesday and some members said Congress might have to double or triple that eventually.

Heavy rain Tuesday spread flooding to parts of Kansas where evacuations were under way along the Kansas River.

Officials in Leavenworth County north of Kansas City warned residents that the volume of water pouring from two reservoirs farther west in the state would cause further flooding.

The Kansas River was nine feet above (2.7 metres) the flood stage in Kansas City and more than six feet over (two metres) above flood levels in Manhattan, Kansas. The Arkansas River was also flooding along its eastern reaches in Kansas.

In Keokuk, Iowa, a bridge across the Mississippi was reopened Monday after workers poured tons of gravel on an approach road that had been under water.

The move restored cross-river traffic on a 210-mile (338-km) stretch of the river that had been without since last weekend when a bridge at Quincy, Illinois, was swamped.

In the St. Louis area, National Guard troops and police stepped up security in many neighbourhoods.

In St. Louis itself about 7.5 million gallons (34.0 million litres) of water a second flowed past the landmark gateway arch overlooking the Mississippi, a 630-foot (190-metre) stainless steel symbol of the city's position as the gateway to the west.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh is contributing two of its best-known products — tea and jute bags — to help Americans hit by the Mississippi floods, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

"We want to contribute to the ongoing relief efforts for the U.S. flood victims," he said. The jute bags will be used to build anti-flood barrages.

Couple kept baby's body in bag for over three years

TOKYO (AFP) — Police arrested a Japanese couple who had been carrying the body of their three-month-old daughter around in a bag for three-and-a-half years. Osaka authorities said Tuesday, Yasuhiko Kai and his former wife Yoko Ogawa, both 29, were arrested Monday, on suspicion of drowning the infant in a bathtub in February 1990. The couple cemented the body of the baby in plaster and carried it around from one hotel to another in the western commercial and industrial city of Osaka, authorities said. Police are also investigating the death of the couple's two-year-old son.

Right knee was wrong one for doctor

OSLO (AP) — When the operation was over, 76-year-old Odder Olsen's bad left knee had been repaired. So had his good right knee. The surgeon operated on the wrong knee. Finding nothing amiss with the joint, he recognised his mistake and operated on the other knee, the Oslo newspaper Verdens Gang reported. Mr. Olsen was pictured in the newspaper, at Vest Agder Hospital in south Norway with both knees bandaged. He said the doctor apologised and accepted blame for the error. "I feel sorry for him," said Mr. Olsen. Verdens Gang said Mr. Olsen referred the matter to the hospital's patients complaint office. The report said nothing about the possibility of Mr. Olsen filing a lawsuit over the mistake.

Clinton praises latest Eastwood film

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton has praised Clint Eastwood's latest movie, in which the hard-boiled actor portrays a secret service agent who goes after a would-be presidential assassin. Mr. Clinton said on CNN's "Larry King Live" programme that he had watched the movie, *In the Line of Fire*, Monday night and gave it a good review.

"I thought he was good in *The Untouchables*, I think he was good in this," Mr. Clinton said. "I think he's making the best movies of his career," the president added. "I liked the movie very much." Asked if it was realistic, Mr. Clinton said, "I think it was as realistic as it could be and still be a real rip-roaring thriller."

Comics will be teaching medium of future

WELLINGTON (AFP) — Comics will be the teaching medium of the future, American literature expert Thomas Inge said here Wednesday. Comics are teaching children to read and can lead to bigger things, Inge, a literary professor at Randolph-Macon College in Virginia, said. Comics are serious literature as they are "accessible to everyone, all socio-economic levels, and often teach children values and concepts," he said. "There would not be many kids who did not grow up with comics. It forms a huge part of the reading material they pick up."

"They treat us like non-persons, like dogs that are chased back into the kennel," he wrote in a letter to his wife.

The chilling letter was published in full by the newspaper Il Giorno, which is owned by ENI. It said Mr. Cagliari, who was 67, has written the note on July 3 with instructions that it should not be opened until after his "return" from jail.

Jury awards \$195m to accident victims

NEW YORK (AP) — A jury awarded more than \$195 million to five passengers injured or killed when their rented station wagon, which did not have seat belts, hit a disabled tractor-trailer. It was the largest award in New York state history in a personal injury case, said Harvey Weitz, the lead lawyer for the plaintiffs. All the victims were natives of Sri Lanka. The 1987 accident on the New Jersey Turnpike killed one man, left another man brain damaged, and his wife quadriplegic, and injured two other women, Mr. Weitz said.

The surviving passengers and the estate of the dead man had sued Budget Rent-A-Car of Delaware and the truck's owner, T.N.T. Pilot Inc. of Virginia. The jury reached its verdict after a six-week trial in Queens Supreme Court. Mr. Weitz said he expects the defence to appeal. The nine occupants of the station wagon, who lived in the Borough of Queens and were natives of Sri Lanka, were returning from a daylong sightseeing trip to Washington, D.C. They had rented a minivan in the New York area, but it broke down in Delaware and they rented the earlier. The car struck the tractor-trailer, which had broken down in the express lane during an evening rainstorm. The jury found that T.N.T. Pilot and the truck driver were negligent in leaving the stalled vehicle in the express lane for more than three hours without properly warning motorists.

In case anyone forgets why the LDP had been brought so low, Thursday will provide a timely reminder with the opening of the trial of the party's former master fund-raiser and powerbroker, 78-year-old Shin Kanemaru.

He will appear in Tokyo District Court to answer charges of evading tax of one billion yen (\$9.2 million) on money which prosecutors allege he took from construction firms in exchange for help in winning public works contracts. Mr. Weitz said

Cambodia rebels destroy part of bridge

BANGKOK (AP) — Guerrillas blasted a hole in an important bridge in Cambodia, preventing the United Nations from delivering rice to the country Wednesday and constricting the route to Thailand.

Thai soldiers reported that about 70 guerrillas attacked the bridge a few kilometres west of Sisophon, a key crossroads town near the Thai border, said Thai Foreign Ministry official Ajahn Dittain. They struck shortly after midnight Tuesday.

Ajahn, who visited the area, said troops of the U.N. peacekeeping operation were trying Wednesday to clear land mines the attackers planted under the bridge. It appeared it would be a few days before they could repair the huge hole on the bridge's surface.

The damage prevented passage by heavy trucks, and a U.N. World Food Programme convoy that drove from Thailand had to turn back Wednesday, said a Western relief official, who demanded anonymity. The bridge is vital for commerce and other reasons because it connects the Thai border with central and eastern Cambodia.

The official had said earlier that another key bridge had also been damaged, but later said he had received a false report.

Meanwhile Italy's Justice Ministry began an inquiry

Wednesday into magistrates who investigated Gabriele Cagliari, the industrialist whose apparent prison suicide set off a storm over the conduct of a nationwide anti-graft probe.

The ministry's chief inspector, Ugo DiNacci, will consider whether the Milan magistrate involved in the case had abused their discretion, including the right to imprison suspects, a ministry spokesman said.

Mr. Cagliari, former head of energy giant ENI, asked five times to be held under house arrest, but his requests were denied.

He had spent more than four months in Milan's grim San Vittore Prison, where he was found dead in his cell Tuesday with a plastic bag tied around his neck with a shoelace.

His death, the first of a suspect in prison in the 17-month-old

Wednesday into magistrates who investigated Gabriele Cagliari, the industrialist whose apparent prison suicide set off a storm over the conduct of a nationwide anti-graft probe.

The bitter struggle over the succession intensified, with a rift between hardliners and reformists threatening to break the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) apart.

Trade Minister Yoshiro Mori and party officials said Mr. Miyazawa would announce his resignation Thursday after the humiliating election setback.

But he resigned as deputy prime minister and foreign minister in April for health reasons after gall bladder surgery, raising questions about his stamina.

"I will stand at the risk of my life if there are voices in the party that Watanabe should do it," Mr. Watanabe, 69, said on television Wednesday. "My health is not as bad as the public believes. This will quickly cure."

Mr. Watanabe is the choice of the party hardliners who resist reforms to the country's corrupt electoral system. He is only likely but still undecided opponent — is Toshiki Kaifu, a prime minister from 1989-1991 with a "Mr. Clean" image.

On the eve of Thursday's meeting, party elders like faction leader Toshio Komoto and Keito Obuchi tried to narrow the widening rift between reformists and hardliners.

Frail former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe declared his candidacy for party leader Wednesday, the first to do so.

Rejoicing at Miyazawa's discomfiture, the agency concluded Wednesday:

"The LDP rulers of Japan must clearly

NEWS IN BRIEF

Anand storms to chess lead

BIENNE, Switzerland (AP) — India's Viswanathan Anand, recovering from a slow start, has stormed into a five-way tie for the lead as the Bienn International Grandmasters Chess Tournament entered the sixth round Wednesday. Also in the lead, with four points each, were Evgeny Bareev and Valery Salov of Russia, Mikhail Gurevich of Belgium and dark horse Paul Van Der Sterren of the Netherlands. Anand, ranked second in the world and the top-rated player at Bienn, handily beat Alexander Khalifman in the fifth round, knocking the Russian out of first place. Bareev drew with Gurevich, Salov beat his countryman Evgeny Pogosov, and Van Der Sterren defeated Dibyendu Barua of India. Viktor Korchnoi of Switzerland, at 62 the oldest player in the tournament, played to a draw with Jonathan Speelman of Britain. Both Korchnoi and Speelman stood with Khalifman and Gata Kamsky of the United States with 3.5 points just behind the leaders. Kamsky drew with Boris Gelfand of Belarus. Judit Polgar of Hungary, the youngest player and only female in the tournament, was in the middle of the pack at 2.5 points after defeating Ferdinand Hellers of Sweden.

Olympic soccer-site finalists named

ATLANTA (R) — The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games has named six U.S. cities as potential sites for preliminary matches in the Olympic soccer competition in 1996. The committee said the finalists were: Birmingham, Alabama, Boston, Dallas, Miami, Orlando, Florida, and Washington. They were chosen from a total of 14 proposed sites. Next month the cities will be visited by Atlanta Committee staff and officials from FIFA and USA Soccer. Up to four sites are expected to be selected to stage preliminary matches. Each city chosen will host four to eight Olympic teams and between eight and 16 during the 1996 centennial Olympic Games, Atlanta Committee officials said.

Motorola will sponsor team

SCHAUMBURG, Illinois (R) — Motorola Inc. lead sponsor of a U.S.-based cycling team with two riders in the top 10 in the Tour de France, reversed itself and said Tuesday it will extend its sponsorship through next year. Motorola said it was a multimillion-dollar deal but declined to give exact figures. Spokeswoman Carrie Worley said in a statement that Motorola had reevaluated its decision announced last March not to renew its three-year sponsorship at the end of the current season in December. Motorola had said it was pulling out in order to pursue other international marketing projects. But the U.S.-based worldwide communications and electronics company will now continue its deal through December 1994 with an option then to renew. Motorola rider Alvaro Mejia of Colombia is currently second in the Tour de France, behind leader Miguel Indurain of Spain. Mejia's teammate Andy Hampsten of the United States is in sixth position. Motorola, which has 18 professionals and one amateur on its roster, is the only American team in the Tour de France.

Fernandez has easy time at Mahwah

MAHWAH, New Jersey (R) — Top seed Mary Joe Fernandez had an easy time in her first match of the \$150,000 Pathmark Women's Tennis Classic, scoring a straight-set victory over Heidi Sprung of Austria. Fernandez, who had a first-round bye, held serve easily in the second-round match, facing only one break point in disposing of Sprung 6-0 6-2 in 76 minutes. The 21-year-old from Miami, ranked seventh in the world and runner-up to Steffi Graf at the French Open seven weeks ago, was the first player to reach the quarterfinals here. "It was hard hitting winners on the slow court, but the victory was satisfying," said Fernandez, who started the hardcourt season with this outing. Earlier in the day, Sprung won a first-round match against American Donna Faber 6-4 6-4. In the day's only upset, unseeded Camille Benjamin, a semifinalist at the 1984 French Open who is currently ranked number 274 in the world, surprised seventh-seeded Australian Louise Field 6-4 6-4.

Gordon will drive Allison's car

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Indycar racer Robby Gordon will drive the late Davey Allison's No. 28 Ford Thunderbird in Sunday's Diehard 500 Nascar Race at Talladega, Ala. Allison's racing team announced. Gordon, 24, was given a one-race deal Tuesday to drive for Robert Yates Racing, which owns Allison's car. "I'm not replacing him," Gordon said. "It just happens that I have an off weekend and I'll do the best I can. Davey was one of my favorite Nascar drivers." Scheduling conflicts prevent Gordon, who is currently eighth in points in the Indycar circuit, from running in all the remaining Winston Cup races this season. "I'm excited that they're taking a chance with me," Gordon said at a hastily called news conference outside Yates Racing's shop. "I know it's a big risk."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
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THE IMPETUOUSNESS OF THE YOUNG

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH	EAST
♦ J 10 6 5	♦ Q 9 8 3
♦ A 9 7 4	♦ K Q 8
♦ Q 6 5	♦ 4
♦ A Q	

WEST	SOUTH
♦ A 7 2	♦ 10 6 5 4
♦ 10 5 3	♦ K 4
♦ K J 8 7 2	♦ 10 6 5 4 3
♦ 8 2	♦ A K Q J 10 7 3
♦ 9	

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♦	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
6 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♦. Vicki Sawyer (17), of Occoquan, Va., and Chris Austin (14), of Riverdale, Ga., won the Junior Pairs at the recent Summer North American Bridge Championships in Torday. This is one of the events that the American Contract Bridge League has created to reawaken an interest in bridge among young players.

With all the brashness of youth, Austin and Sawyer, North and South respectively, blasted into six diamonds. South's jump to three diamonds cannot be faulted, but North's Blackwood leap to four no trump was certainly looking at life through rose-colored spectacles, since the pair could well be off two quick spades.

Six diamonds had no play until West, elected to lead the ace of spades. That, and a most fortunate lie of the cards, was all Sawyer needed to bring home her optimistic contract.

West shifted to a heart at trick two. Declarer shot up with dummy's ace, drew two rounds of trumps and then cashed the king of spades. Declarer still needed to find two parking spots for losing hearts, so her next move was to take the club finesse despite the singleton in her hand.

When that worked, declarer could almost claim. The ace of spades had made it a moral certainty that East held the queen, so declarer cashed the ace of clubs for a heart discard and then led the jack of spades from the table. When East did not cover, declarer discarded a heart and all was well!

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Tour de France cycling race overall leader Miguel Indurain (right) plays billiards with his teammate Pedro Delgado on their rest day Tuesday (AFP photo)

Jaskula wins 16th stage of Tour de France

SAINT LARY SOULAN, France (R) — Zenon Jaskula of Poland won the 16th stage of the Tour de France cycle race over 230.5 kms from Andorra Wednesday.

Swiss Tony Rominger was second and Spaniard Miguel Indurain was third.

Indurain retained the race leader's yellow jersey.

Indurain reckoned his biggest rival Tony Rominger had carried out an abrupt change in tactics to stop him winning in Paris this weekend.

"If I was in Rominger's place and I had to beat Indurain, I would quickly change tactics," said the Banesto team star.

"Rominger's breakaway attempts in the mountain have all failed for the moment. Perhaps he should have tried a few more things during the first week."

The Spanish rider, looking for a third straight Tour win, said Tuesday the last big mountain stage from Tarbes to Pau on Wednesday would probably be Rominger's last chance to get ahead.

"I think it's good for the sport that we are able to compete," Lewis said about their duel at an invitation athletics meeting in Gateshead near Newcastle. "(But) there is no reason to have gone this long."

Lewis said he was looking forward to racing against Christie but was disappointed it had taken so long to arrange.

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Donors spend more on military than aid in Somalia - U.N.

Combined agency despatches

UNITED NATIONS relief Supremo Jan Eliasson complained Wednesday that U.N. members were spending at least 10 times as much on their military operation in Somalia as they were on aid.

In a rare criticism of the U.N. operation by a high-ranking U.N. official, Mr. Eliasson warned that the original aim of sending troops to Somalia — to protect aid — was being forgotten.

Mr. Eliasson, U.N. under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, told officials in Geneva that donor nations had given less than 15 per cent of the \$166 million needed for relief and rehabilitation in Somalia this year.

"As a comparison, approximately \$1.5 billion will be spent on military operations in Somalia over a period of 12 months," Mr. Eliasson told the U.N.'s Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc).

"In other words, due to the security needs, the international community is spending 10 on military protection for every dollar of voluntary humanitarian assistance in Somalia, even if the 1993 relief and rehabilitation programmes were to be fully funded."

Mr. Eliasson added: "Unless sufficient funds are provided for rehabilitation activities, there is a risk that the military operation can be perceived as an end in itself, rather than as a means of ensuring security for rehabilitating the country's infrastructure and forging reconciliation."

Mr. Eliasson's criticism came at the height of a fierce diplomatic row over the role of U.N. peacekeepers in Somalia.

Italy, which fields the third-largest contingent in the U.N. peacekeeping force, has complained of a lack of consultation by the U.N. with those countries providing troops.

Officials in Rome have also protested that regular U.S. bombing raids on command posts belonging to fugitive warlord General Mohammad Farah Aideed have aggravated the conflict.

Mr. Eliasson's criticism is not the first by U.N. officials of the world body's operation in the Horn of Africa country.

Last October, two months before U.S. Marines led the first U.N. peacekeepers into Mogadishu, U.N. special envoy Mohammad Sahnoun was forced to return after accusing the U.N. of having sat back and watched "Somalis descend into this hell."

Mr. Eliasson praised the December peacekeeping operation, dubbed "Restore Hope," by the Americans, which he said had

allowed relief workers to deliver supplies across a country where U.N. officials said an estimated 300,000 people had already died.

Germans deployed

German soldiers flew to Somalia Wednesday to join a U.N. peacekeeping mission that opposition politicians fear is becoming a combat operation.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's cabinet said Tuesday it would stand by its commitment to the United Nations, saying to do otherwise would badly damage Germany's image as a reliable partner in global affairs.

U.N. officials, fearing that the Germans may become prime targets for Somali gunmen because they can only return fire in self-defence, have decided to deploy them out of Harm's way.

Defence Minister Volker Ruhe bade farewell before dawn Wednesday to 250 soldiers and said he would visit them soon in Belet Huen, some 300 kilometres northwest of Mogadishu, the Somali capital.

The troops landed at Mogadishu, where gunmen have attacked the 13,000-strong U.N. force. They were to travel by land to Belet Huen. More troops will follow in coming weeks to bring the force up to full strength of 1,700 in the first overseas deployment of the German military since World War II.

Two Zimbabwean soldiers serving with the U.N. operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) were wounded by Somali snipers in Mogadishu Wednesday, the Italian news agency ANSA reported.

It quoted UNOSOM sources in the Somali capital as saying the ambush took place near the operation's fortified headquarters in the former U.S. embassy compound. It did not say whether the soldiers had been seriously injured.

On Tuesday, snipers wounded two American soldiers in Mogadishu.

Tuesday's attack occurred while U.S. soldiers escorted an American privately-owned vehicle doing road work in the city. On Monday, two U.S. army military policemen were slightly injured by sniper fire.

The editor issued the statement after taking their case to the minister of information, Ma'an Abu Nowar, whom they quoted as promising to follow up on the matter with the JPA.

The editor stressed the need for brotherly dialogue with the association, noting that laws should be dealt with in a democratic spirit," the statement quoted Dr. Abu Nowar as saying.

The editors demanded that the association grant them legal recognition and recognise them as journalists in accordance with the political parties and the press and publication laws.

The JPA refuses to acknowledge newsmen working for political parties as journalists because its "law does not recognise their publications as news organisations," JPA President Suleiman Al Qudah, said Wednesday.

"The JPA law does not recognise political parties' publications as news organisations, and people working for them do not meet the legal requirements for JPA membership."

German soldiers land in Mogadishu Wednesday (AFP photo)

Journalists with political publications lock horns with press association

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Editors and reporters working for political parties newspapers are trying to enlist the help of "official and popular organisations" in a bid to force the Jordan Press Association (JPA) to accredit them as journalists and grant them membership.

"We hope for the intervention of all official and popular organisations ... in order to prevent the association from being abused in irresponsible and illegal ways," editors of political parties newspapers said in a joint statement Wednesday.

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The JPA refuses to acknowledge newsmen working for political parties as journalists because its "law does not recognise their publications as news organisations," JPA President Suleiman Al Qudah, said Wednesday.

"The JPA law does not recognise political parties' publications as news organisations, and people working for them do not meet the legal requirements for JPA membership."

Mr. Qudah told the Jordan Times.

The two sides are locked in legal arguments with both claiming that the law is on their side.

The confrontation with political parties newspapers is the second major legal dispute that the JPA has been engaged in since the enactment of the new Press and Publications Law earlier this year.

It has yet to resolve its conflict with non-JPA member journalists who work for local and foreign mainstream news organisations and are not recognised as journalists by the JPA on the basis that the law restricts recognition of journalists to its members.

Editors of political publications say the JPA denies them legal recognition even though the JPA law states that "a news organisation is the person or the legal entity (who/which) issue a publication in the Kingdom." They say political parties are legal entities and their publications are published in the Kingdom.

Mr. Qudah says, however, that the law excludes from recognition publications issued by clubs, unions and "local, international and diplomatic agencies or any other similar agencies." He says the JPA's legal consultant has advised him that political parties fall under that category and should therefore be recognised as news organisations whose members are entitled to join the association.

Editors of political parties newspapers counter this argument by saying that they are not social clubs and the Ministry of Information licensed

their publications as political newspapers.

"The JPA has a weak argument," a lawyer told the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. He said political parties do not fall under "local, international, diplomatic or similar agencies," and should therefore be granted recognition as news organisations.

Accordingly, he said, newsmen working in their newspapers should not be excluded from JPA membership on the basis of the JPA argument.

Questioning "the real motives" behind the JPA's refusal to accept their membership, the editors charge the association is "attempting to isolate them from professional and social activities, which negatively affects the political growth" of society.

"We are simply implementing the law," Mr. Qudah said. "There is a legal impediment."

He said the JPA would be willing to accept the membership of editors and reporters working for political parties' publications if an authorised legal body rules in their favour or if the association's law is amended to allow for their membership.

Mr. Qudah, however, criticised the newsmen for not resorting to dialogue with the association before starting to "defame" the JPA in public.

"We blame them for that," he said. "They should have talked to us."

The two sides will take up the issue at a meeting at the JPA Thursday, but prospects for resolving the conflict without a legal ruling appear dim as Mr. Qudah insists that the law is on the JPA's side.

"It is a question of legality," he maintained.

Hogg wants Palestinians to accept U.S. paper

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Palestinians should accept an American peace proposal and delay the hard-to-solve Jerusalem issue until the end of the peace talks, a senior British official said Wednesday.

"I think the window is possibly rather a narrow one," Douglas Hogg, minister of state for foreign affairs, said on Israel army radio after meeting with Palestinian negotiators.

"Therefore, I say to the Palestinians, I very much hope they will be able to subscribe to the declaration of principles."

Mr. Hogg, Britain's number two man at the Foreign Office, was finishing a three-day swing through the area.

After meeting Israeli leaders, Mr. Hogg said the status of Jerusalem should be left until Palestinians and Israelis had agreed at 20-month-old peace talks on a plan for Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories.

"The issues raised by Jerusalem are extraordinarily difficult and are probably best settled at the end of the process when much progress has been made on other issues," Mr. Hogg told reporters.

Both sides have made an issue of the Holy City which Israel calls its "eternal capital." The Palestinians want East Jerusalem, home to their political and cultural institutions, for their own capital.

Mr. Hogg has met Jordanian, Israeli and Palestinian leaders during a four-day trip to Jordan, the occupied territories and Israel apparently designed to keep the parties focused on the U.S. peace

drive.

Mr. Hogg said he had not brought new proposals to the region.

"If people think there was a different approach (being proposed) from the Europeans, they might take their mind off what the Americans are trying to do, and I think that would be quite unfortunate," Mr. Hogg said.

He welcomed the idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian confederation controlling an autonomous area in the occupied territories.

"I think that there is considerable attraction in that approach from the point of view of the Palestinians and ... from the point of view of the Israelis," the minister said.

The United States is promoting a declaration of principles for the negotiations that delays discussing Jerusalem until after an interim Palestinian autonomy. It is a way of getting some movement in the stalled U.S.-backed talks.

Israelis have reluctantly accepted the document, preferring that the issue of Jerusalem remains left out altogether.

But the Palestinians have not yet accepted the proposed agenda, saying that the issue of possible Arab sovereignty over the city's eastern sector should be addressed now.

It was Mr. Hogg's third visit to Israel. He met with his Israeli counterpart, Yossi Beilin, and with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. He was scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as well.

Morocco's Sahara team refused to discuss vote

RABAT (R) — Morocco's delegation failed to talk on the Western Sahara said on Wednesday it had resolutely refused to discuss with Polisario guerrillas a long-promised referendum on the territory's future.

The talks, held in Laayoune, the disputed territory's main town, were the first direct meeting between the two sides. They broke up Monday after three days of jockeying for position over preliminary issues.

The main point which U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali had asked the two sides to settle — who would vote to decide between Moroccan rule and an independent state — was not even discussed.

But Mohammad Sheikh Biadilah, head of the Moroccan team, said in a statement carried by the official news agency MAP Wednesday that the talks were not about the referendum, which both sides agreed to in principle five years ago.

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It was excluded that we examine the modalities of implementing the self-determination referendum, which remains the sole competence of the United Nations secretary

general," he said.

"Of course this was not always the view of our Saharan brothers in the Polisario, but we remained intransigent," said Mr. Biadilah, who is a native of Western Sahara and governor of the Moroccan city of Sale.

Dr. Ghali had said in a message to the two sides that the aim of the Laayoune meeting was to break the deadlock over the interpretation of the criteria for voter eligibility — the question which has been blocking a referendum since a ceasefire took effect almost two years ago.

Mr. Biadilah said his delegation explained that the Moroccan character of the Sahara could not be bargained over ... it was up to them (the Polisario) to see what was the best and most honorable way for them to return to the motherland."

Diplomats said the implication was that the Polisario was being invited to simply join Morocco and abandon any hope of creating an independent state in the former Spanish colony.

Some local autonomy was apparently the most the Moroccan delegation would consider offering.

Israelis end strike

(Continued from page 1)

links with Israel which would be established according to plan; along the old "green line" dividing the occupied territories from "Israel proper," around Jerusalem and between Bethlehem and Hebron and Kalkila and Nablus. Through settlement, on about 10 per cent of the land of the West Bank and Gaza, and confiscation of more than 40 per cent of the Israelis can now claim control of more than half the land in both territories.

Israelis have put forward a variety of proposals for a final territorial settlement with the Palestinians. Most call for the creation of enclaves or "cantons" round major Palestinian towns. On May 7, 1993, the Haaretz daily published a map delineating the three Palestinian enclaves included on the accompanying map, which also shows settlements. According to this map, all the major and many secondary Israeli settlements would fall within the areas remaining under Israeli control. The enclaves would

divide the Palestinian population of the West Bank into the groups: those in the northern, central and southern cantons and those in Arab East Jerusalem, which would be isolated from the cantons.

The cantons would be islands comprising less than 50 per cent of the land of the territories and surrounded by Israeli occupying forces. The cantons would be connected with Jordan by roads under Israeli control and with Israel by westward-leading roads giving the Palestinians Israeli-controlled access to the sea.

Palestinians living outside the cantons would be transferred into them. This would mean squeezing over a million Palestinians into less than half the territory they claim as their patrimony and cutting off East Jerusalem's 160,000 Palestinians from their countrymen and the 850,000 Palestinians in Gaza from the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Although the Palestinians in the territories have vehemently

rejected cantonisation, Israel has gone ahead with investment in the areas which would, under such a scheme, come under permanent Israeli control. The Israeli press has recently published maps showing that the government's investment priorities were in areas "A" and "B" on the accompanying map, i.e. along the "Green Line," in order to ease it, and in the large tracts of land along the Jordan River and adjacent to the "Green Line." These maps show that the government has placed no priority at all on either public or private investment within "Israel proper." Thus funds are being channelled into the territories at the expense of the majority of Israel's citizens.

If the West Bank were to be cantoned, Gaza would, perforce, become another canton, distant and disconnected from the three West Bank cantons, with no external political outlet for its people. Ever since the intifada erupted in Gaza in 1987, many Israelis have supported unilateral withdrawal from the Strip, one of the poorest and most heavily populated areas in the world. Palestinians believe in the "Gaza first" option could be put forward by Israel if sanctions on "final status" are introduced into the present peace process.

An adviser to the Palestinian team stated categorically that the "Gaza first" scheme was unacceptable because, as he put it, "the West Bank, with Jerusalem as its capital, is the heart of our entity.

Nothing can be made of Gaza until the status of the West Bank is determined."

A Palestinian intellectual living in East Jerusalem made it clear that any cantonisation scheme was unacceptable to the people of the West Bank and Gaza. "We insist on Israeli withdrawal from all the land they occupied in 1967, we cannot afford to give them one inch of that land; how can more than two million Palestinians exist in only 10 per cent of the land of Palestine while five million Israelis live on 90 per cent?"

Nevertheless, most analysts and officials agree that it is high time for the two sides to have a clear understanding of an imposed regional bilateral arrangement that could potentially trigger instability and friction — an outcome that both Jordanians and Palestinians simply cannot afford.

ATLANTA (R) — Fire erupted at Atlanta Fulton County Stadium, home of the Atlanta Braves baseball team, just as fans were filling in for a Tuesday evening game with the St. Louis Cardinals.

The fire erupted in a luxury box immediately adjacent to the press box. Witnesses who were in the stadium at about 6 p.m. when the fire started said it was preceded by an explosion that "sounded like a cannon."

COLUMN

Report: Pope performed 'exorcism' in 1982

ROME (AP) — Pope John Paul II performed an exorcism in 1982 on an Italian woman, healing her with the promise of a mass. The account was included in the memoirs of Cardinal Jacques Martin, who served as the Vatican's prefect of the pontifical household, a post similar to master of ceremony. Cardinal Martin died in 1992. Italian news reports quoted from the book, *My Six Popes*, published in France. The Vatican corroborated the account of the exorcism. The woman, identified as Francesca F., was "rolling on the floor, shouting. From outside, we heard her cries."

The Pope began to pray, pronouncing various (words) of exorcism, but in vain," the account went.

"When, at the end, (the Pope) said to the woman, 'tomorrow I'll say mass for you,' suddenly Francesca F. became normal again and she apologised to the Pope." Bishops are allowed to perform exorcisms, a religious ritual to